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LD0305124988 [Editorial Report]

Lebanon

Israeli Operation in South—IDF forces searched for "terrorist squads and their collaborators" in southeast Lebanon 3 May, Jerusalem radio announced, adding that the operation focused on "the eastern sector of the security zone and its edges."

Noting that this was the area through which Palestinian squads recently tried to penetrate into Israel, the radio stressed that the goal of the operation is not to expand the boundaries of the security zone or to take over territory, but to search for terrorists and destroy their infrastructure.

Israeli minister Yitzhaq Moda'i acknowledged to IDF radio that the IDF operation involves areas north of the security zone, but he stressed that Israel has taken "precautions" against getting involved in a clash with the Syrians. The IDF will complete its mission and return home in 24 hours, he added.

On the location of the operation, IDF radio cited Lebanese reports that Israeli and South Lebanese Army soldiers advanced 10 km northeast of the security zone and surrounded the villages of 'Ayn 'Ata and Libbaya.

A UNIFIL report confirmed that searches were also being carried out further south, near the villages of Kafr Shuba and Shab'a, the radio said. UNIFIL disclosed that the Israeli force comprises some 1,300 soldiers, with armored personnel carriers and tanks, according to Jerusalem radio, which said the IDF force met with no resistance.

The Tel Aviv paper YEDI'OT AHARONOT reported that the operation was approved by the "prime ministers' forum" of Yitzhaq Shamir, Shim'on Peres, and Yitzhaq Rabin immediately after the two clashes with terrorist squads on Israel's northern border last week.

Among Lebanese reportage on the operation, Voice of Lebanon radio said that Israeli artillery and helicopters bombarded woods and hills north of the security zone, sparking off fires.

The shelling focused on areas near 'Ayn 'Ata, Al-Khufayr, and other villages near the western slopes of Mount Hermon. The clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio reported that Israeli troops landed from helicopters on the road south of 'Ayn 'Ata.

The Israelis arrested a number of inhabitants of villages in the Al-'Urqub area, Beirut radio stated. Israeli planes also conducted "mock raids" and overflights near Sidon and southern Beirut the night of 2 May, according to the Voice of Lebanon.

The operation in the south began around the same time and followed reconnaissance activity by an Israeli drone near the western slopes of Mount Hermon, the radio noted.

Inter-Palestinian Clashes—Rival Palestinian factions concluded a cease-fire agreement in the Shatila camp following talks sponsored by 'Asim Qansuh, leader of the Ba'th Party Organization in Lebanon, Beirut radio reported.

The radio cited varying estimates of the casualties, the highest figure being 10 killed and 50 wounded. The Voice of Lebanon reported further clashes after the cease-fire announcement.

Israel

Occupied Territories—The Civilian Administration in Judaea and Samaria will shortly cut off water and electricity supplies to villages which have not paid their outstanding debts to the water and electricity authorities, Jerusalem radio reported.

The decision applies to 10 villages in the area which have not paid these debts despite repeated reminders, the radio said. In another development reported by the radio, the Interior Ministry closed down AL-'AWDAH, an East Jerusalem weekly published in Arabic and English.

Jerusalem District Commissioner Elie Suissa told the radio that the closure followed information that AL-'AWDAH is connected with "terrorist organizations."

In the Gaza Strip, security forces imposed a curfew on three refugee camps 3 May, Jerusalem radio reported. A local youth was "severely wounded" by IDF gunfire in Gaza the same day when youths tried to disrupt the exit of laborers for work in Israel, the radio said. A Gaza resident was also wounded by IDF gunfire during a riot 2 May, Jerusalem television noted.

Relations With Egypt—Prime Minister Shamir has sent a message to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak affirming his readiness to renew the Camp David autonomy talks at any time, IDF radio reported. Shamir views dialogue with Mubarak on the peace process as a "first priority" matter, the radio said.

As for the Egyptian-Israeli dispute over Tabah, Shamir prefers to conclude the process of international arbitration rather than to reach a bilateral compromise, according to Jerusalem radio.

PLO

PLO official Faruq Qaddumi launched "his fiercest attack yet" against the United States, KUNA said in a report on his interview with AL-SIYASAH. Qaddumi described Secretary of State George Shultz as "a man full of hatred" for Arabs and called the U.S. Administration "rotten."

Meanwhile, Palestine Liberation Front official Muhammad 'Abbas threatened to strike at U.S. interests in the Arab world to avenge the assassination of PLO official Khalil al-Wazir, WAKH reported.

Gulf Conflict

Warning to U.S.—Iran will not allow the United States to provide a "security belt" for Iraq in the Persian Gulf, a WIH spokesman warned in a KEYHAN interview cited by IRNA.

The spokesman also declared that Iran will retaliate against any new U.S. "mischiefs" in any field, and that Muslims sympathetic to Iran will attack U.S. interests throughout the world.

UAE Visit—Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati met with the Al-Shariqah ruler and with the UAE finance and industry minister during a visit to the UAE, IRNA reported. He also met with a UAE Foreign Ministry official, WAKH noted.

Besharati discussed current regional developments with the UAE officials, and according to IRNA they expressed "pleasure" with long-standing ties between Iran and the UAE.

OPEC

Following an OPEC meeting on reducing production, the Kuwaiti oil minister termed "invalid, baseless, and stupid" Iranian accusations that Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf countries are trying to destabilize oil prices to ensure that Iran earns only the minimum income from its oil sales, KUNA reported.

Egyptian-Saudi Relations

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid met with his Saudi counterpart in Jeddah, SPA reported. Meanwhile, an Egyptian Foreign Ministry official rebutted a Cairo press report that Egypt and Saudi Arabia have reached a "secret agreement" for over 5,000 Egyptian Central Security Service and Special Forces members to assist Saudi forces in resisting possible Iranian actions during the pilgrimage. The official cited by MENA called the report "baseless and totally untrue."

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab-African Meeting Set To Open in Damascus

Arab League's Klibi Arrives

JN011656 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1555 GMT 1 May 88

[Text] Damascus, 1 May (SANA)—Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi arrived in Damascus this evening to attend meetings of the ministerial committee for Arab-African cooperation, which will be held in Damascus tomorrow, Monday.

Receiving him at Damascus International Airport were Faruq al-Shar', the foreign minister; Zuhayr 'Aqil, commissioner general of the Israel boycott offices in the Arab homeland; the director of the Arab Homeland Department; the director of the Foreign Ministry Protocol Department; and a number of Foreign Ministry officials.

Klibi said in a statement to a SANA correspondent: I would like to voice my profound pleasure to be visiting Damascus to attend the ministerial meeting, which includes the former and current presidencies of the OAU and the Arab League. The meeting's participants will discuss ways to enhance the activity of Arab-African cooperation bodies and also to give a new momentum to this cooperation. The Arab and African groups attach great importance to this cooperation.

Klibi added that the Syrian initiative to host this meeting, after it hosted another Arab-African meeting 2 years ago, confirms Syria's deep belief in the joint militant ties among the Arab and African peoples for the sake of freedom and dignity.

He said: Fortunately, my visit comes at a time when Damascus, capital of steadfastness, is witnessing successful efforts to bolster Syrian-Palestinian relations with the aim of making the Arab confrontation of the Zionist aggression stronger and more effective. I also attach great importance to meeting with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad at a time when our countries are preparing to hold an extraordinary summit in Algiers to support the valiant uprising in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, the Golan, and southern Lebanon against the Israeli occupation forces.

Khaddam Receives Klibi

JN021218 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] At 1300 today, Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi. They discussed Arab and regional issues and Arab-African cooperation.

Congolese Minister Arrives

JN011924 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 1 May 88

[Text] Antoine Ndinga-Oba, Congolese minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, and the accompanying delegation arrived in Damascus today to attend the meetings of the ministerial committee on Arab-African cooperation.

He was received by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur, the director of the Arab homeland desk at the Foreign Ministry, and the chief of protocol.

OAU Official Arrives

JN010709 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 1 May 88

[Excerpt] Damascus—OAU Secretary General Ide Oumarou arrived in Damascus last night to attend the meetings of the ministerial committee on Arab-African cooperation which will be held in Damascus in the next 2 days.

Oumarou was welcomed at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur, and the head of protocol at the Foreign Ministry. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Yasir 'Arafat Sends 'Important' Message to PRC

LD021835 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1602 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has sent an important letter to the comrades in the Chinese leadership. Brother Abu 'Ammar received the PRC ambassador in Baghdad and gave him the letter, which concerns the latest political developments in the Middle East, especially new developments in the Palestinian arena and the Chinese stand on a number of current issues.

PLO's Muhammad 'Abbas Threatens 'U.S. Interests'

JN022004 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1850 GMT 2 May 88

[By Faruq Shukri]

[Text] Baghdad, 2 May (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has said the absence of Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, from the Palestinian battlefield has not curbed the continuation and escalation of the popular uprising in the occupied territories, but will inflame it further and make it more comprehensive.

In his first address to a popular celebration since the assassination of Abu Jihad in Tunis last month, Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] said: By assassinating martyr Abu Jihad, the Israeli enemy thought it could assassinate both the Palestinian people's spirit and the popular uprising in the occupied territories.

In his address to a large Palestinian gathering on the national day of the Palestine Liberation Front, 'Arafat denounced the U.S. move in the region. He said Shultz and Murphy came to the region to impose the U.S. will on the region. However, all U.S. conspiracies will fail and the Palestinian children's will is going to remain, he added.

'Arafat lauded the victory achieved by the Iraqi Armed Forces by liberating Al-Faw. He said the Iraqi Army, which is fighting on the Arab homeland's eastern front, is not only defending Iraq but also the Arab will and nation.

He added: It is no coincidence that the Iraqi Army achieved a great victory in Al-Faw and that the popular uprising escalated in the occupied territories.

He pointed out that the Palestinian camp of Shatila has been subjected to artillery shelling for the 5th consecutive day. He said: This shelling compensates for what could not be done by the Zionist aggression in the occupied territories.

Concluding, 'Arafat said Shultz, the Israeli clique in the occupied territories, and their masters in the White House must learn that the Palestinian revolution will continue one wave after another until occupation ends and until Jerusalem is an Arab city once again.

He said: Assassinations will not deter the Palestinian people, particularly the stone-throwing children, from the lengthy march until all their goals are realized.

PLO Executive Committee member Muhammad 'Abbas, alias Abu al-'Abbas, had earlier delivered a speech in which he threatened to strike at U.S. interests in the region in reply to the crime of assassinating Palestinian leader Khalil al-Wazir.

Abu al-'Abbas said the U.S.-Zionist alliance can only be deterred by arms and it only understands the policy of force which comes through armed struggle and real threat to U.S. interests in the Arab region.

He stressed that the termination of U.S. interests is a termination of the unholy alliance between the U.S. Administration and the Zionist enemy.

He said: From this premise, we must confront the U.S. Administration's envoys and on this basis we must specify our stands toward the plans of the U.S. Administration which sees its interests only through its stand on the side of our enemy and its denial of our inalienable rights.

Abu al-'Abbas accused the U.S. Administration of trying to abort the Palestinian popular uprising in the occupied territory and said Shultz came to the region carrying in his bag one plan consisting of one clause seeking to abort, circumvent, and extinguish the uprising.

Abu al-'Abbas, who was sought by the U.S. courts for masterminding the hijacking of the Italian steamer "Achille Lauro" 2 years ago before the charges were dropped by the same courts, stressed that Abu Jihad's martyrdom was a translation of one of the clauses of the U.S. plan and a continuation of this plotting.

He added: Hence, we say no to Shultz' plan and no to all the imperialist attempts to circumvent our cause and our right to self-determination. He stressed there will be retaliation for the Israeli Mosad's assassination of Abu Jihad.

In a speech interrupted several times by applause, Abu al-'Abbas said: We will not remain idle toward the provocation of our people and masses by the Zionist and U.S. fascism.

He wondered how long Palestinian blood will be condoned, how long Arab territory will be open for others, and how long Zionist killers will continue to picnic in the Arab homeland?

Concluding, he said the blood of Abu Jihad and the stone-throwing children should be avenged by all.

330 Killed, 18,000 Arrested During 'Uprising'

JN021917 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1728 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat's] press adviser has stated that 330 Palestinians have been martyred by Israeli soldiers' bullets on the West Bank and Gaza Strip since the beginning of the tumultuous popular uprising as of noon today, following the martyrdom of Nidal 'Abd al-Latif Abu Shawmar, when Zionist soldiers opened fire on him while he was hoisting the Palestinian flag on an electricity pole in Nabulus.

He added the occupation forces stormed Zayta, Kafr Ni'mah, and 'Asirah al-Shamaliyah villages in the early hours today. He accused the occupation forces of using helicopters to land special forces that stormed these villages with the assistance of ground forces backed by tanks and armored vehicles.

He said the occupation forces use all their heavy weapons against the Palestinian people who confront the occupation with stones and struggle for their freedom.

He added the occupation forces have arrested more than 1,000 inhabitants in the Zayta, Kafr Ni'mah, and 'Asirah al-Shamaliyah villages since this morning, which raises the number of detainees to 18,000 since the beginning of uprising.

Brother leader Abu 'Ammar's press adviser called on all those who respect human rights in the world to rescue scores of the sons of Bani Suhaylah who were buried alive in their houses after the enemy's bulldozers sealed their doors by piling large quantities of sand and stones before them, making it impossible to leave the houses or contact those inside.

He said this odious crime demonstrates how fascist and criminal the enemy gangs are and that the enemy has lost its senses in the face of the Palestinian steadfastness.

'Uprising' Call No 15 Outlines Protest Days

JN291926 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1758 GMT 30 Apr 88

["Call No 15, call of the workers," issued by the PLO, "the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising in the occupied territories" on 30 April; place not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Call, call, call. No voice can rise above that of the uprising, above that of the Palestinian people, the people of the PLO. Call No 15, call of the workers, issued by the PLO, the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising in the occupied territories.

O masses of our great people, heroes of the uprising and forgers of its glory. O you who brought about earthquakes with your stones and incendiary grenades; O you who made the earth move under the feet of the occupiers through your use of stones and incendiary grenades and who showed determination with your splendid confrontation and challenge to adhere to the pursuit of the objectives advocated and the slogans upheld by the uprising.

Through the sacrifices offered by thousands of its sons, its martyrs, its wounded, and its detained, and by those harmed by the use of fascist methods of oppression and through the great gains and accomplishments it has scored thus far, the uprising has strongly opened up a path for reaching the phase of comprehensive civil disobedience.

Furthermore, the uprising has also ended within the mind and spirit of our people any signs of hesitation or reluctance to fight the oppression and terrorism being perpetrated by the occupiers.

The Unified National Leadership has no choice but to escalate the struggle and deal painful blows to the fascist entity to pave the way for realizing the objectives of your victorious uprising—the objectives of attaining freedom and independence.

Despite all the oppression, isolation, the besieging of camps and villages, starvation, killing, detention, the crime of assassinating commander Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], terrorism, deportation, and the psychological warfare being waged by the Zionist enemy's apparatus with the aim of aborting the uprising, our people have not reneged and will not renege on their objectives.

Through the use of their creative energies, they are creating new means of confrontation in reply to the escalation measures being employed by the enemy, adapting themselves to a protracted phase of struggle until the occupiers are expelled and the independent state is established.

Contrary to all the calls for capitulation being voiced by the occupiers, our people view the daily accomplishments they are scoring as a solid basis for continuing and developing the uprising.

The uprising has brought about a new pattern for our daily economic and social life, a pattern based on the fact which stipulates that the uprising is a protracted and continuous revolutionary process—a process that cannot be free of hardships, victims, and difficult living conditions.

However, the uprising is replete with accomplishments which have entrenched national unity among all sectors of our people and their national forces—a unity embodied by the great cooperation being shown by the popular committees, the strike forces, and the guard committees and also by the extensive cultivation of land, the formation of cooperatives, and the unprecedented social integration.

The accomplishments scored by the uprising are not only restricted to thwarting the U.S.-reactionary conspiratorial schemes and the dreams harbored by the Zionists of perpetuating their hegemony over the occupied territories.

These accomplishments go beyond this to win further international support for our just objectives and bring about a suitable atmosphere—now more than ever—in view of the joint Soviet-Palestinian agreement to render successful the convening of an international conference with full powers based on the legitimate national rights of our people and to force the Zionist enemy and its ally, U.S. imperialism, to succumb to the will of the international community which is voicing further support day by day for our people's objectives.

This was clearly shown in UN Security Council Resolution No 605 which stressed the need for recognizing the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people.

Due to the clear effects of the uprising, and also of the Palestinian, Algerian, Libyan, and Soviet efforts, the Syrian-Palestinian relationship is proceeding in the right direction.

This relationship was crowned by the meeting between a Palestinian delegation led by Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman, and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

We urge Syria to embody a relationship of militant alliance with the PLO based on respecting the independence of the Palestinian national decisionmaking. The nationalist Arab states are urged to establish a new steadfast, militant base whose list of priorities should include the convening of an Arab summit conference to support the uprising and the embodiment of an Arab political stand vis-a-vis the U.S. imperialist schemes, headed by the Shultz plan.

The effects of the uprising were felt by the sons of our steadfast people in the Lebanese arena in a way allowing the expansion of their struggle and ending their suffering.

Moreover, this development has widely allowed the return of the Palestinian factions still outside the PLO so they will join the PLO's bodies on the basis of the program of the 18th PNC session.

The uprising has brought about a qualitative leap in the international balance of power in favor of our people's national rights to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state under the PLO's leadership.

While reiterating our commitment to the pursuit of our people's just objectives, we are divesting the Zionist enemy of the claims it propagates to mislead world public regarding the objectives of our just struggles. We are also bringing about further international isolation of this enemy. Furthermore, we are also bolstering our people's legitimate optimism regarding the proposal of a just solution to their national cause.

O masses of our great people. The issuance of Call No 15 coincides with 1 May, International Labor Day. On this militant day which is celebrated by the world's workers, our Palestinian people take pride in the revolutionary role being played by our workers and their union organizations and also by all the Palestinian proletariat and other sectors of our people.

We also pay tribute to the great sacrifices they are offering in defense of our people's national issue. We take pride in the struggle being waged by our valiant workers; they are suffering because of their continuation of the uprising.

We call upon international bodies and international labor organizations to show solidarity with the Palestinian labor movement against the deportation, detention, and harassment decisions taken against unionists and against the decisions to close, storm, and ban the activities of labor unions.

On 1 May, we salute our valiant workers with greetings and pride in their militant role and urge them to effect a comprehensive boycott of work in Zionist settlements.

We also urge them to adhere to work inside the occupied territories. We ask them to move to the cultivation of the land and to miss no opportunity allowing them to do away with work behind the so-called green line.

On this occasion, we call upon our valiant workers to offer further bountiful offerings in embodiment of the unified Palestinian will. We also call for forming unified labor committees and for working to unify the ranks of the labor and union movement.

We greet and appreciate the merchants' firm and honorable stand. We also greet the merchants in the heroic city of Jerusalem who rejected the Zionist enemy's orders.

We urge all merchants not to respond to any Zionist calls to open their shops in violation of the national stand. We stress the importance of full abidance by all sectors not to pay taxes.

We also stress the importance of not increasing commodities' prices. Boycotting work in Zionist settlements and Zionist products will inevitably lead to fragmenting the economic and social structure of the Zionist entity.

We greet the masses of our people in the Gaza Strip and its heroic besieged camps for their heroic steadfastness. We call on our people in the Al-Shati', Dayr al-Balah, and other camps to foil the Zionist enemy's plan to hold citizens' identity cards with the objective of aborting the uprising.

We appeal to international bodies and the UNRWA to immediately restore full supplies to all camps of Gaza Strip citizens to bolster their valiant steadfastness in the face of the fascist Zionist measures.

We urge the masses of our people to deal the strongest blows to workers in the police apparatus and the appointed municipal and village councils who deviated from the will of our people, headed by Al-Zir, Al-Tawil, Khalil Musa, and Jamil Sabir Khalaf.

The Unified National Leadership of the Uprising affirms that the measures that have been taken against them thus far were only a warning. Out of a commitment to the recommendations of our valiant merchants committees and to our citizens, we call for opening shops for 3 hours, from 0900-1200, in all areas.

This applies to gas stations with the possibility of having only one Arab gas station on duty. The industrial areas shall abide by the set opening hours of 0800-1300.

O masses of our struggler people, on the road to achieving civil disobedience and out of a commitment to the militant program of the Unified National Leadership, the militant arm of the PLO, we urge our national key figures and our struggler masses to observe the following:

1. To consider 1 May a general national day. This day shall be turned into a day of confrontation with the enemy's fascist forces and a day of popular demonstrations in villages and cities during which Palestinian flags shall be hoisted and slogans denouncing the Zionist enemy shall be raised.

We call on institutions, factories, and companies to abide by making this day a paid holiday for their workers.

2. To consider 4 May a day of comprehensive strike and a day for national development during which all activities and various committees shall be devoted to cultivating land and rebuilding demolished houses.

3. To consider 5 May a day for breaking the enemy's decision closing academic institutions. We stress the importance of academic institutions abiding by duty hours from 0900-1200.

4. To consider 7 May a day for solidarity with our valiant merchants where everyone opens shops through the support of our people and the strike forces.

5. To consider 9 and 10 May days for a comprehensive strike during which all facilities and transportation shall stop to greet the first galaxy of the uprising's martyrs.

On the occasion that the uprising has entered its 6th month, the people's will shall be embodied through striking at the forces and agents of the Zionist enemy and all militant activities and energies shall be exploited to escalate the uprising against the fascist Zionist enemy.

The days from 2 May until 11 May shall be considered days of intensified activities and the anger of Palestine. Sundays and Fridays shall be considered days to perform prayers for the souls of the martyrs.

The Unified National Leadership calls on all popular and national committees to name streets and institutions after martyrs of the uprising to keep them alive in our generations' memories.

Mammoth demonstrations shall be staged from mosques and churches against the usurper enemy and its settlers.

The road to civil obedience requires the further formation of popular, neighborhood, educational, guard, agricultural, information, and solidarity committees. O masses of our people, who offer continuous sacrifices, continue to develop your daily struggle means.

Intensify the use of popular means against all enemies beginning with the holy stones and ending with the incendiary Molotov cocktails. O our people and the youths and girls of Palestine, further strike force, further sacrifices for the sake of Palestine.

Every hit to our enemy's body will bring us closer to the great victory. The blood of our righteous martyrs will not be wasted uselessly. We will continue with you to achieve our objectives of freedom and independence.

We affirm that the PLO is the only party with which any dialogue can be held concerning our legitimate national rights.

Greetings to our steadfast citizens and to all national, Arab, and international efforts that support our triumphant uprising. We will continue together on the road of the glorious uprising. We will triumph.

[Signed] The PLO, the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising in the occupied territories, 30 April

OPEC Affairs

Iranian Oil Minister Criticizes U.S. Gulf Policy

AU301715 Paris AFP in English 1704 GMT 30 Apr 88

[By Marie Joannidis]

[Text] Vienna, April 30 (AFP)—Iran accused "a faction" in the United States administration here Saturday of seeking by all means to prevent Iranian leadership in the Gulf region because of its huge energy reserves.

"Five countries in the Gulf own 75 per cent of known world oil reserves," Iran's oil minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh recalled in an interview.

He told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE "a faction in the U.S administration led by (Secretary of State George) Shultz and (former Defence Secretary Caspar) Weinberger" were acting "on the hypothesis that unless Iran is under constant pressure from several corners, it will gain leadership in the area."

This would place the United States in a "difficult and dangerous" position.

The U.S. politicians were using "every opportunity" to try to counter Iran, in the United Nations, in the field of oil and "wherever they have any hand,"

This faction was "ultimately fully prepared to get involved in a military conflict," he added, pointing to U.S. military actions this month against Iranian vessels and offshore oil platforms.

Mr Aqazadeh, here for a conference of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), asserted that the idea behind this was to "convince Iran and the world that Iran is isolated and cannot do anything without the consent of the East and the West."

He charged that the U.S. was using Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries of the Gulf to implement this strategy of encirclement and isolation.

He recalled that Riyadh broke off diplomatic ties with Iran on the eve of talks here between OPEC and non-OPEC oil producers which preceded the full OPEC conference.

The Saudi decision followed an "intensification of U.S. military pressure" in the Gulf, he added, suggesting that U.S. influence was extending into the OPEC context.

It was mainly Arab producers in the Gulf which were responsible for producing in excess of their agreed national quotas, he said.

Iran was convinced that the United Arab Emirates (UAE) was not "cheating" on its quota "without prior Saudi knowledge," he said.

Noting that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait—like the United States—were opposed to higher oil prices, he said that "traditionally", when prices begin shooting up, Kuwait and the UAE "start over-producing."

Further on OPEC, non-OPEC Vienna Meeting

President on Output Cuts

AB0205163588 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] The OPEC president, Alhaji Rilwanu Lukman, has stressed the need to secure a long-lasting agreement on cutting oil production to support world prices. Speaking at the end of a 4-day meeting of OPEC ministers, Alhaji Rilwanu however said the decision on production cuts should be [words indistinct].

The meeting ended in Vienna without an agreement. The ministers discussed the issue of reducing oil export by 5 percent over 2 months by non-member nations. He invited OPEC members to do the same.

Eight member nations agreed to a cut of (?300,000) barrels daily. Other member countries including Saudi Arabia, the largest producer, opposed it. Reports said the Saudis were (?unwilling) to accept their large share of the reduction but supported the proposal that all member nations should share the cut equally. The issue will be discussed again next month at the organization's ministerial meeting.

Nazir Holds News Conference

LD021608 Vienna OPECNA in English 1652 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] Vienna, 2 May 88 (OPECNA)—Saudi Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister Hisham M. Nazir said today he "honestly felt there were new horizons before OPEC and many avenues of hope".

He was addressing a press conference to sum up his impressions of the OPEC consultative meeting which ended in the early hours of the morning.

Nazir declared that there was now an awareness and a recognition that oil market stability was a collective "world responsibility" and it was not possible for OPEC alone to carry the burden. The significance of the OPEC-/non-OPEC encounter in Vienna lay in that.

The Saudi minister said OPEC welcomed more oil producers to come in, formally or informally, jointly or separately, to balance supply and demand and thus stabilize the international oil market.

He added that "serious discussions" had been held with the non-OPEC group last week and he expected contacts to continue.

Nazir said he did not believe in short-term solutions which he called "tranquilizers". He added that it was "much better to solve basic problems than take tranquilizers".

The Saudi minister made a strong plea for discipline in OPEC ranks and emphasized that there was a sincere desire among the member countries to achieve it. He also paid warm tribute to Mexico, saying "Mexico accepts our position" and is keen to work for lasting and long-term solutions.

Asked about the reported Saudi formula of a... OPEC production cut across the board and in equal measure, he said: "A cut is a cut and it should make everybody aware that it hurts." He added that it was necessary that all members should join in the collective effort being undertaken.

He also spoke in strong terms about the need for production discipline. He said that there was not only a desire among OPEC members to ensure that, but "perseverance" aimed at "putting an end to this endless and vicious circle of overproduction. This is something which has just got to stop."

Nazir was hopeful of OPEC/non-OPEC contacts growing on positive lines. "Early last year we went to them one by one and now they came to Vienna as a group," he said, adding that "OPEC was keen for Norway to become part of that group.

He stressed the need for a lasting understanding with non-OPEC producers. There was no point in "ad hoc exercises". He expressed the hope that there would be "some form of long-term relationship" between the two groups.

On U.S. Energy Secretary Herrington's remarks about the OPEC/non-OPEC meeting, he said U.S. oil states like Texas were greatly interested in the stability of the world oil market, then added "I think Herrington was speaking from a theoretical rather than practical point of view".

Kuwait Terms Talks 'Success'

LD021719 Vienna OPECNA in English 1659 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] Vienna, 2 May 88 (OPECNA)—Kuwaiti Oil Minister 'Ali al-Khalifa al-Adbi al-Sabah said today the OPEC consultative meeting which ended here early this morning was a success.

"Our relationship with non-OPEC countries which met the OPEC Price Committee last week is based on long-term cooperation," the minister told a press conference here.

"This is why we need more thought to go into it," he argued, adding that all ways and means of longer-term cooperation with non-OPEC producers would be explored.

He said the Vienna meeting was a success because the non-OPEC countries became aware of the necessity of stabilizing the world oil market.

Al-Sabah pointed out that non-OPEC countries had offered larger production cuts in the past than they had done this time.

He praised Mexico for its "seriousness and professionalism" in handling the issue of cooperation towards oil market stability.

OPEC countries would continue bilateral and collective contacts with non-OPEC producers, the minister said, adding that a technical committee headed by OPEC Conference President Alhaji Rilwanu Lukman would define what constituted production. He said this was an important issue and a clearer understanding of it was essential.

All OPEC countries seriously wish to put their house in order, he said, adding that it was not a matter of satisfying the market in the short-run, but rather in the medium and long-term.

"Our relationship with non-OPEC countries does not depend on a particular production figure" or a month or two months, but on a longer-term relationship, he said.

"We have been and are still sacrificing although we are exporting 50 to 60 percent of our export capacity," he said, adding that the OPEC concern was with long-term price stability rather than short-term gain.

Minister Responds to Iran

LD021830 Kuwait KUNA in English 1717 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] Vienna, May 2 (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifa al-Adbi al-Sabah, reacting to charges by Iran and others, reiterated here Monday that Kuwait is always ready to work toward the stability of oil prices in world markets.

"A destabilized market does not serve the economic interests of Kuwait," Al-Sabah told reporters at a press conference, while terming the accusations as "invalid, baseless and stupid."

Iran accused Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and other Gulf oil producing states of attempting to destabilize oil prices in a bid to force Iran to gain the minimum income from its oil sales.

Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and others opposed an Algerian proposal last night to cut 300,000 barrels per day from overall OPEC's production. Instead, the Gulf countries supported a proposal by non-OPEC states to cut back the production by 5 per cent, which amounts to 183,000 barrels per day.

Shaykh 'Ali said the consultative ministerial conference, which ended its meetings here last night, decided to form technical committee including representatives from all member states and chaired by the conference president Alhaji Rilwanu Lukman to discuss technical issues relating to production and pricing.

The committee, the Kuwaiti oil minister added, will submit a report to the regular ministerial conference which will be held here on the 6th of June.

The consultative conference also instructed the communications committee to continue its contacts with non-OPEC oil producting countries to forge common stands, according to Shaykh 'Ali.

While underlining the importance of cooperation among the cartel and other oil producing countries, the Kuwaiti minister pointed out that "this cooperation must be erected on thick foundation and should look for long-term results."

"It is not so crucial that oil prices plunge during the next few days as a result of the outcome of the latest meetings. Rather, it is more crucial to work on the longer term for the stability of oil prices and the maintenance of the official prices," he stressed.

Shaykh 'Ali, who left back to Kuwait shortly after the conference, said that technical issues could have a devastating effect on a decision to cut back OPEC's production.

Norway To Continue Cutback

LD021716 Vienna OPECNA in English 1727 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] Oslo, 2 May 88 (OPECNA)—Norway will not deviate from the voluntary reduction of 7.5 percent it made in its oil production until the end of the year despite the outcome of the OPEC consultative conference.

Norwegian Minister of Petroleum and Energy Arne Oien was quoted by the REUTER news agency as saying that his country would continue to implement the oil output cut.

He added that no further measures were planned, as "The most important thing now is that OPEC sticks to its quotas".

Egypt

'Secret Agreement' With Saudi Arabia Denied

NC0205163388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] Cairo, 2 May (MENA)—Today, an official source at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry denied a report published in the latest edition of the Cairo paper SAWT AL-'ARAB on the conclusion of a secret agreement between the Interior Ministries of Egypt and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This agreement reportedly arranged for the dispatch of 5,000 members of the Egyptian central security service and another number from the special forces to Saudi Arabia, to help resist any possible action by Iranian delegations during the pilgrimage season.

The Egyptian source emphasized that this report is baseless and totally untrue. The source pointed out that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia can safeguard its own security and protect the pilgrims.

President Mubarak Makes May Day Speech at Rally

NC0105171088 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 1 May 88

[May Day speech by President Husni Mubarak at a rally at the Railway Club in Nasr City, Cairo—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Dear brothers and sisters: Season's greetings to you. We celebrate Labor Day this year in the blessed month of Ramadan; a month for purity and ascetism; a month in which we train our souls to abstain and purify through compassion for each other; a month in which we speak to God Almighty with reverent and satisfied souls, our hearts delivered from hatred and venom and our faith unblemished by greed and ambitions.

Ramadan sheds a particular light on the meaning of Labor Day and the struggle of workers. It evokes certain ideals, such as the recognition of man's rights and responsibilities and the duty to defend the weak against the greed of the strong. The willingness to sacrifice, do the right things, and help others is a proper guideline for labor.

I can state with a clear conscience that the workers of Egypt follow these ideals. [applause] They have been a shining example of dedicated work everywhere, and we are proud of them.

Throughout the struggle of the labor movement in Egypt the workers have always placed the supreme interests of the country above any other consideration. They have never resorted to subversion or destruction or listened to calls for bloody sedition among the sons of the nation. They have never gone along with schemes against public property, which belongs to all of us.

In sum, I greet you on your day by saying that the workers of Egypt have never, under any circumstances, forgotten their duty to the nation. They do their duty without reluctance, nagging, or bragging. Such is labor's commitment to society, under which our labor movement has gained strength and assumed its national responsibilities. The labor movement has been behind every aspect of our development. It has participated in legislative and executive decisionmaking and has always been in the forefront of progress in the country.

We have been subjected to harsh wars that have claimed many victims, and their consequences have impeded construction and development. Egypt's workers gained the highest honors during the war of attrition and in the preparations for the great October war, when they sacrificed their lives for victory. Egypt's workers were the sinew of production which defeated economic encirclement, and challenged attempts to wage a war of starvation against us.

Today we are waging the battle of construction, the biggest and gravest construction battle. We see Egypt's workers, as they have always been, at the head of the working battalions. All attempts to lure them to extremist circles, sabotage plots, and the recklessness of blind bias have failed to shake their belief. Heartfelt greetings to Egypt's workers on this workers day, the day of Egypt, the day of values and principles, the day of giving and sacrifices, the day of work and construction. [applause]

Brothers and sisters: I want to talk to you openly and frankly about our domestic situation. I want to talk about what we have achieved, what has impeded us, what challenges face us, what battles we must fight, and what steps we must take in the near and distant future.

My talk with you will be completely frank and will cite facts as they are, regardless of any other considerations. Our only path is that of truth because our work is a collective responsibility in which everyone shares according to his ability. There is no way, then, to hide any fact, cover up any failure, or give false justification for any error.

We all agree that production is the only way. We all agree that increased production is the guarantee against all setbacks and the way to build the just society we are seeking. We all agree, too, that no one will solve our problems; that solutions will not be handed to us on gold or silver platters. Solutions will come only if we use our minds, development only if we use our hands, and renaissance only if we wake up and arise with our own determination and will.

There is no way to escape challenges as long as we are developing. We are not a country overflowing with resources. We are not few in number. We are not inefficient or lazy. But, the fate of developing countries is affected by a world seething with ambitions, wars,

terrorism, and all that is threatening peace and suffocating development efforts. This is our fate in this region: threatened with explosion, surrounded by ambitions, torn by divisions, and witness to the conflicting interests of the superpowers, who are playing the most dangerous games.

We confronted the gravest challenges 7 years ago when the forces of terrorism bared their teeth. The head of state was assassinated. This was followed by terrible events in some cities which claimed the lives of more than 100 police officers and soldiers. They were martyred in defense of the homeland's security and safety. These grave incidents revealed the existence of terrorist organizations that were working in the dark, seeking to frighten the citizens and to topple the social and political system by force of arms.

Those events had a very negative effect on investments and, hence, production. They also deeply affected tourism. These consequences spread to all aspects of our lives. Despite all this, and even though we had just begun construction to save dilapidated factories, develop collapsing services, and implement infrastructure projects, despite all this, we managed to stand on our own feet. Our achievement for this great people has been described by unbiased observers as a source of pride.

We then faced the grave collapse in the world price of oil, accompanied by a big drop in remittances from Egyptians abroad. All this affected our resources, while the debts which we had accrued in the construction battle and in providing food for the people piled up.

While talking about the issue of debts and investments, I would like to clarify some points so that every citizen can know where the money has gone and so that we do not start indulging in speculation. Anyone who wants to indulge in this can do so. The debts, the monies, are not pocketed. The loans come in; the constitutional entities approve them; and they go to the companies, where there is control.

I would like to give a simple example of the expenditure of huge amounts. First, prior to the start of the [5-year] plan I learned that all the country's infrastructures had broken down. You all know this. There were no sewage outlets. Some of the sewage plants in Cairo had pumps stamped 1906; they were built in 1906. There were no pipes underground; they had eroded away. If someone fell into a sewage pipeline, people said he fell through the manhole, but he really fell into the pipe, which was 2 meters or more in diameter, and was swallowed by the sewage. The people then blamed the government, as is natural. If you walk anywhere and the ground slides, a person or a car can be swallowed by a sewage pipe. What is the diameter of a pipe? Three meters? From 2 meters to 5 meters. My God, the pipe could swallow a car.

There was no water. Some 40 percent of Alexandria had no sewage network. You must have heard of filth overflowing and dumping into the sea. Some sewage was even dumped on the ground. We were exhausted and had no options. Some asked why sewage treatment plants did not work. These were built in 1916. Some 60 or even 80 percent of Alexandria had no sewage network because the city had grown enormously. There were only cesspools. There was no water or, as you know, electricity. The factories—you who work in them know—were dilapidated. Equipment in certain factories, which I myself saw, was built in 1938. How can we expect factories and textile machines from 1938 to produce good quality cloth like modern factories that produce ready-made clothes, furniture, and other commodities imported from abroad? Everytime I visited a factory I was told that they imported from abroad because the goods produced by our factories were of low quality. Indeed, the textile machines in our factories were in very bad condition. Seven or eight workers would operate each machine: one turns, another pushes, etc. [applause]

I visited a factory in Hulwan and heard noises and hammering. God help the workers, who need two aspirin tablets to be able to go home. A worker in such conditions cannot work a whole shift. All our factories were worn out, and the only solution was to rebuild the infrastructure. Electricity was insufficient, and the streets were in miserable condition. You complained about water and electricity shortages and bad roads. The chairman of the Labor Federation complained, and he was right. We are moving fast now. Had we begun implementing such development plans 40 or 50 years ago we would not have had these problems.

Let us see how much the industrial sector has cost us, so that we can understand why we have debts. I was faced with two options. The first was to leave things as they were and refrain from refurbishing factories, sewage pipes, and water pipes; building roads; renewing broken railways; building power plants and hospitals—which were begun in the sixties and seventies and left incomplete—and developing transport and communications. There were no telephones or telex machines. If one wanted to make an international call one had to wait for 1 week. It was easier to buy a ticket and fly to another country than to make a telephone call. This is what investors used to do. The second option was also to do nothing, because Egypt's resources were too small to embark on all these projects. The state's resources are limited. What should have been done? Should we have left things as they were, with thousands of students graduating from universities every year without job opportunities, investments, or electricity? Should we have sat idly by while the population growth quickly increased? Even now we are unable to cope with this increase. [applause] What should I have done? We lacked electricity, roads, and railways. How could I ensure sufficient food and housing for the people without money? If I built you homes, how could we provide

you with water, sewage systems, and electricity? If we built a factory, how could we provide it with electricity, roads, transportation, and telephones? These did not exist.

Our only real options were to do nothing and let the country go to the devil, or to borrow like everybody else. We had to renovate, rebuild the infrastructure, build roads, generate electricity, etc. Now we are paying off our debts like everybody else. This is not a big deal. We will not starve.

Actually, we would have been much better off had oil prices not plummeted so much. The price of oil dropped from $29 per barrel to $6. This was a heavy blow to us because our revenues diminish by $70 million every time the price of oil goes down by $1.

For instance, how much did we have to allocate to industry in the 5-year plan? Allocations in the first 5-year plan amounted to 7.77 billion Egyptian pounds. Allocations to electricity were 6.85 billion. Infrastructure—and this does not cover everything we need; some projects are still underway—took 3.364 billion, mostly for the renovation of sewers. Transport and communications got 6.635 billion. We had to borrow 2.783 billion to finance projects in agriculture, irrigation, land reclamation, education, health, tourism, and civil aviation; total expenditure for these areas is even bigger than that. I will not even tell you how much because it would frighten you.

The total expenditure in all sectors was about 36 billion. Some of this was financed by internal and external debts. The external debts alone amounted to 15.59 billion.

I am just giving you examples. What did we do in these sectors to spend that much? Let us take the transport and communications sector for example. A small example: We built 13,600 km of highways at a total cost of 930 million pounds; almost a billion on roads alone. In addition, we spent 744.9 million pounds on bridges, 600 million on the subway, 1.3 billion on telephones, 1.55 billion on railways, and 492 million on maritime transport.

Let us take a closer look at the bridges. I will tell you how many of these were built so that you will have a fair notion of what is going on. We built five bridges over the Nile—in Beni Suwayf, Al-Minya, Disuq, Naj' Hammadi, and Banha—another 108 bridges over other waterways, 13 pedestrian overpasses, 11 tunnels, and 2,695 small bridges and barrages for waterways. All this was accomplished in 5 years. Had we not done this our traffic would have come to a standstill and we would not have been able to build new cities and towns.

Let us turn to the railways, which were in a shambles. Now we have a two-way line for cargo trains between Cairo and Alexandria. A similar line was built in upper Egypt. The work is progressing well. All these were much-needed projects.

How about electricity? Egypt began producing electricity in 1906, with an annual output of 10 million kilowatt-hours. The output climbed to 500 million kilowatt-hours in 1952. The corresponding figure for 1982 was 18 billion. We increased that to 45 billion in the 5-year plan, a 150-percent increase.

We say that electricity prices are high; prices in general are high. Our brother chairman of the federation said that the only solution is for the public sector to economize and raise prices. He then said that prices are high and we want wages increased. If we increase prices and then increase the wages we will be doing nothing.

I will give you an example. Some people ask why prices increase. We built three power plants with a 525-megawatt capacity in 1962. Do you know how much they cost? They cost 25.175 million pounds. We are now constructing a power plant with a 600-megawatt capacity. Do you know how much it will cost us? It will cost 850 million pounds. The price grew from 25 million pounds in the sixties to 850 million pounds now. We must pay this sum. We cannot throw a bomb and then steal it. We have to pay for the power stations we buy. The Shubra al-Khaymah station will cost 1.75 billion pounds; 'Ataqah station will cost 1.1 billion pounds; and Abu Qir station will cost 1.05 billion pounds. These stations used to cost 20-25 million pounds. What is 20 million pounds now? Peanuts. Now you have to pay 500, 700, 800 million pounds, even 1 and 2 billion and more. I am just giving you examples of the price situation. Morever, we do not produce machines, but import them. We are trying to produce goods in order to save millions of pounds.

Our prices would drop if we manufactured many of the goods we need. An example is ready-made clothes. The prices of ready-made clothes from abroad are very high. We produce and export ready-made clothes here. Some Egyptians go abroad and buy Egyptian-made clothes. The Egyptian trademark is concealed by the name of the new company. You are pleased when you buy these clothes at a high price. You might buy such clothes abroad for about 250 pounds, whereas they are sold for only 50 pounds locally. You pay a high price simply because you bought them abroad.

When we look at population growth we find we cannot keep pace, despite our development plans. The population was 29.4 million in 1965. It had increased by 4 million in 1970, reaching 33 million. The population increased from 33.1 million in 1970 to 36.9 million in 1975 and by another 5 million by 1980. It further increased by 6 million by 1985. We are reproducing very quickly, faster than the speed of sound. We cannot cope.

Responsibility dictates that I be frank with you about the nature of the challenge I mentioned and its possible dangers, so that we may form a real picture of the situation. The shortage of the Nile waters, because of the lack of rain at the Nile sources, is the great challenge

confronting us. The shortage of rain in some African regions has caused the drought which has claimed the lives of thousands. These are not mere words. You hear about it. It is also creating dangers for us, which offer two possibilities. The first, is that the water level will drop to less than last year's average, thus affecting agricultural production.

The second, is the inevitable result of the first, namely, a shortage of electrical capacity, thus affecting the level of lighting and the operation of factories. This problem arose from sheer bad luck. We had not taken this into account in making our plans. This water shortage could mean a shortage of electricity and an effect on our agriculture. These results will appear in July if the water level drops further. If the water level falls below 147 meters, the High Dam's entire power supply will stop. Yes, God is there, but faith alone is not enough. We have to work. [applause] To say that God is there and sit cross-legged doing nothing is not a solution. God will not offer anything on a silver platter. If that were the case, no one would have to work and there would be no poor people.

After several technical meetings at which the views of experts and specialists were taken into consideration, we had to take measures necessary to maintain agricultural production. Thank God, these measures were implemented for agriculture this year. We had to take technical measures to offset the electricity shortage. We achieved this despite the fact that we all know that the quantity of electricity we have produced in the past few years surpasses the production of over 50 years. Now, however, we face this challenge. Experts estimate that as of July we will begin to lose power equal to the amount produced by the High Dam. If the water level in the Upper Nile does not rise and the level in the dam lake falls below 147 meters, we will have to make the utmost efforts to compensate for this great shortage. Several measures have indeed been taken to deal with this problem. The first of these measures is to use reserve energy and alter distribution among various zones according to their needs. If we have to—and I am speaking frankly to you—we will cut electricity to some cities and areas. We have no other solution. Do not say no or complain when electricity is cut. If the water drops there is no other solution. At the same time, the Ministry of Electricity and the government have concluded contracts to establish power plants quickly and, as usual, we have borrowed money to cope with the power shortage next year. This is a temporary, precautionary measure. As a matter of fact, we should have taken long-term measures before. For this reason contracts have been concluded to establish power plants with help from three countries. The establishment and assembly of these plants will be implemented in the shortest time possible to compensate for the probable shortage.

Perhaps you can appreciate the additional financial burdens we have borne to achieve this, because we had not taken this development into consideration. We are not astrologers, after all. We have been destined to meet challenges. There is no room for hesitation or delay in confronting these problems. This requires sincere cooperation and increased awareness by all citizens, in fields, homes, factories, and all entities that use water and electricity. We must all realize the danger of wasteful consumption of water and electricity and ration our consumption. This calls only for an increased sense of responsibility and realization that limited consumption will protect us from water or electricity cuts.

Many countries before us have suffered from drought. Among these were countries from the Third World and others that were industrially advanced. All of them took drastic measures to reduce their water and electricity consumption. They restricted use of water for gardening and washing cars, and their people complied with these measures because they understood the gravity of the situation. We can follow their examples. In these countries people were even asked to economize on drinking water; to pour into their glasses only the amount they are going to drink. In our country people fill their glasses to the brim, even if they do not intend to drink it all. This is wasteful. We must be more aware. We can do this; we do not have to wait until the last minute and then wish we had acted earlier. We should act now so we do not have regrets later. Other people who suffered from water shortages complied voluntarily with government-imposed restrictions on water consumption. Our people are no less conscientious than they. Egyptians are as protective of their country's prosperity as any other nation.

Dear brothers and sisters: This is a temporary challenge posed to us by Mother Nature. There are other basic challenges of a more persistent nature we must address as well: the challenges of development. Let us look at the issue of production, in which your great achievements are worth noting. There has been a steady increase in production, which must be sustained and exceeded. In 1981-82 our gross domestic product [GDP] stood at 35.4 billion pounds. In 1986-87—the last year of the 5-year plan—the figure rose to 64.9 billion, an annual increase in the GDP over the 5-year plan of 5.4 [figure as heard] billion. We are proud of this accomplishment, which is particularly remarkable as it was made during times of hardship and adversity.

Egyptian industry has developed in leaps and bounds. High-quality Egyptian exports have found new markets and competed successfully all over the world.

In services, great achievements have been made in the transport and communications sectors—as I said earlier. This is also true in housing, education, agriculture, health, and social security.

Allow me to discuss the health sector. One of the labor leaders has just been talking to me about health care for workers. Well, as you know, you need hospitals to implement health insurance plans. What about hospitals? Our hospitals used to be in terrible shape, which

encouraged a brisk business in private clinics. But there were complaints about the high cost of medical services in these clinics. We had to react to this situation by modernizing our hospitals and equipping them with the latest facilities. This goal was met very satisfactorily. You may have seen the new hospitals I inaugurated before the television cameras. I did this so that all of you would have the chance to see them, not just me. I wanted you to know that there are hospitals in your country which are highly specialized and capable.

Fourteen hospitals have been completed and have begun treating patients. They include the Nasr, Al-Matariyah Heart Center, Asyut University, 'Ayn Shams, and other hospitals. The construction of some hospitals began in 1963 and others in 1970, but they were not completed. They cost money. We import the equipment from abroad and pay for it with the money we borrow. We have completed the modification of 3 hospitals and are now modifying 86 central hospitals in various parts of the Republic. Complete modification of 20 hospitals is expected in the 1st year of the 5-year plan, this year. In other words, we will have 20 more hospitals by the end of this year. About 15 hospitals will be inaugurated in the next 2 days. They include the Al-Mansurah, Al-'Am, Al-Hilal al-Ahmar, Zayd Qanatir, Al-Qantarah east of Alexandria, and Al-Azhari Hospitals. There is no need to mention all of them. There are many hospitals for health care. They are part of the services on which we have spent large sums. We had to spend large sums because we import equipment from France, Germany, and the United States. We do not produce specialized equipment. Our doctors go abroad to perform operations. We have very efficient doctors who are working abroad because of the facilities available there. We have very efficient doctors here. We are importing modern facilities so they can perform various operations here, instead of paying dearly to treat patients abroad.

There has been much progress in the tourism sector. Many people joined efforts to achieve this progress. In the meantime, we have embarked on a comprehensive program for economic reform based on our conditions and present and future needs. The program provides for increasing production and exports, limiting general expenditures, and reducing nonessential imports. How much do our imports cost? We spent 6.569 billion pounds on imports in the year 1981-82; 6.3 billion in 1982-83; 7.3 billion in 1983-84; 7.4 billion in 1984-85; 6.8 billion in 1985-86; and a little over 8 billion in 1986-87. I believe imports have decreased a little in the past 2 years, despite the large figure, which is attributable to the rate of exchange. Why has the volume of imports decreased? Because we are now producing many goods which compete with foreign products.

I want to tell you about Egyptians. An Egyptian working in Kuwait or any Gulf state, for example, brings with him two or three carpets when he returns. If he sees a blanket of a nice color he buys it and brings it back with him. He believes he is smart; that he bought it cheap. When he goes through customs here he is nervous until he gets out. He then discovers that such carpets and blankets are produced in Egypt and cost less than abroad. We actually export carpets and blankets to all these countries. Some people have realized that we produce good refrigerators, washing machines, and stoves. Their imports are decreasing. Consequently, we are spending less on imports, despite the large sums we pay due to the rate of exchange.

These days Arab financiers are increasing their investments in Egypt, and more Arab tourists are coming here. Arab countries decided recently to restore Egypt's membership in the Arab League fund and the Arab development fund, which finance investment projects. The Arab monetary fund provides loans to boost the balance of payments. The agricultural development fund finances land reclamation projects. The Arab development fund gives loans with long and easy terms. Restoring Egypt's membership in these funds will have positive effects. What is the story? Our membership in these funds was suspended 9 years ago. These funds had enormous assets from which we did not benefit. We could have improved our balance of payments and developed projects through them, instead of obtaining loans from other establishments. The committee met, and our brothers in the Gulf and most Arab countries, or rather all except certain ones I will mention, enthusiastically supported Egypt's return. Every time I contacted an Arab country it promised to endorse the issue in its contacts with other Arab countries. They were all very forthcoming, except for four Arab countries. The PLO rather wavered in its opinions, which does not make much difference. [laughter]

Syria—and you know its policies and circumstances—expressed reservations. As for Libya, you know the colonel's usual troubles, God help him. He also expressed reservations. He was too busy and had not much use for this fund, as he was preparing his army to fight America. [laughter] This is true; he said so. I am not putting words in his mouth. As for Lebanon, you know of its problems of occupation and turmoil. Algeria, unfortunately, expressed reservations which to this day I am unable to understand. This is strange, but, well, it is a friendly Arab country. Maybe some people are working against us in Algeria. But we have to give credit where credit is due. President Chadli Bendjedid is a good and honest man. I met him in Addis Ababa, and we got along very well.

Brothers and sisters: These achievements are promising, offer hope, and help ease our burdens. These achievements are only part of what we aspire to attain. There is no doubt that we place in the forefront of these achievements the opening of a bright new page in cementing Egyptian-Arab relations. The Arab countries view with amity and appreciation Egypt's economic circumstances, its role in confronting the major problems facing the Arab nation, and its role in the cause of peace.

Is this sufficient? Has the road become paved and easy? Is it time for us to rest? Allow me to tell you that we are still at the most difficult stages of a hard road. I am not calling for despair, but you should know that we are being frank. As long as we live, there is hope. We have emerged from the bottleneck, as they say, but we are still bearing heavy burdens. Indeed, we are making our way amid rocks with the utmost effort. There are still major obstacles ahead of us, the biggest one being that we produce much less than we consume. This is a very important point. For this reason, the conference on production...[changes thought] Maybe I have been late because we were very busy. I do not want an improvised conference, but one that is well prepared, so that we can emerge with resolutions benefitting us in the forthcoming stage. We still rely on imports, particularly foodstuffs, that cost us enormous sums of hard currency. World prices for raw materials, food commodities, and factory operations continue to rise, which affects the cost of production in Egypt and increases the price of commodities.

Coupled with this major obstacle is the terrible increase in the rate of consumption. We are now distinguished from other peoples by these high rates. I will cite an example of our unique modes of consumption, which do not exist anywhere else in the world. In Egypt an individual consumes 34.8 kg of sugar a year. In India an individual only consumes 25 kg; in the PRC, 6.3 kg; in the United States, 20.4 kg; and in Britain, 13.9. These are rich countries that have ample wealth, yet their people economize. In Egypt, a person who wants a cup of tea puts in 8 or 10 cubes of sugar to be in a good mood. Why this is, I don't know. [applause] In Morocco, the consumption rate is 18.1 kg; in Algeria 8.6 kg; and in Japan 6.3 kg. Egypt has the highest rate of sugar consumption in the world. It is not a matter of the availability of sugar on the market. In fact, we have such a high rate of consumption that it has an adverse effect on our health. Some may ask how high sugar consumption affects our health. When you get sick, you want treatment from abroad and not in Egypt.

Let us speak of flour. I would like to talk about the subsidy we provide for wheat. I do not want the people who write banner headlines to complain that I am saying that I want to raise the price of bread. No, I only want the people to know how much subsidy we pay. The bread subsidy constitutes 529 million pounds of the annual budget. This 529 million pound subsidy, however, is only on paper. Where do I buy the flour and the wheat? From abroad with dollars, and with dollars, not pounds. Even those I pay with pounds want to exchange them for dollars. The dollars I use to make purchases abroad come either from revenue from the Suez Canal or other sources. However, this revenue is barely sufficient to pay for sugar and oil in view of our increasing population. The dollars I acquire on the market in order to purchase commodities are bought at the rate of 1 dollar for 70 piasters.

Therefore, the subsidy does not actually equal 529 million pounds. The real bread subsidy equals 1.7 billion pounds. I am now just telling you the figure. A time will come when this must be remedied because this amount is harmful to us. At the same time, one of our brothers—I think it was Dr Yusuf Wali—and some other brothers were traveling through a certain governorate. He entered a certain area where he found a room full of bread, quantities of it, 2,000 or 3,000 loaves, and some goats eating them. This is depressing. Come let us think. Had we thought, as we had thought earlier of increasing the bread price...[changes thought] I am not thinking of that, so those who are listening to me will not go and prepare their banner headlines. I am not saying that I will increase the price of bread. No, I am merely speaking to the citizens because it is their right to know these things.

Those who raise a hue and cry are those who buy the subsidized flour sack and then go and sell it elsewhere for 10 piasters. They take the government subsidy and make a profit from it. They really take the subsidized flour sack, which must be sold for 2 piasters, and sell it for 10 piasters. I sent for some of these sacks in order to look at them. My God, it should not cost much. I mean that if the government sets its price at 5 piasters, it would be too costly. Still, I am not telling you this in order to increase the bread price, but for the benefit of those who heard me just now and wrote banner headlines, so that they can strike them out. The average per capita flour consumption in Egypt is 200 kg. In Saudi Arabia it is 154 kg; in Jordan, 104 kg; in Mexico, 70 kg; in India, 57 kg; in China, 86 kg; and in Japan, 50 kg. This means we consume a lot—200 kg. We do not consume less than 200 kg, possibly even between 200 and 300 kg. Those who consume only this amount are the ones who do not use much. [applause]

This is not the only thing. Let us consider the petroleum issue. If we sell our total oil output, it will generate $4.2 billion, approximately 10 billion Egyptian pounds. This would be the case if we exported the whole quantity. Do you know how much of the $4.2 billion we consume here in Egypt? We consume $3.1 billion of this oil. How much do we pay for it? 1.9 billion pounds. Look at the difference; it is $1.1 billion. No, it is more—900, that is 800 million; 800 from 3,000 [Mubarak calculates]—about 2,000 odd million pounds.

Economic reform needs long-term consideration. If we do not reform our economy, certain able people will continue to benefit from this subsidy. We cannot reach those who are disadvantaged because, between you and me, in our country we do not know who is able and who is not.

Yet our suffering is not only confined to the terrible triangle of the exhaustion of our hard currency through the process of imports, higher prices, and increased consumption. There is something else that is more dangerous and causes a heavier burden. It is the alarming annual population growth rate. We have increased by 6

million people over the past 5 years. The increase may be 7 million more people in another 5 years. We are multiplying so fast we are even beating marathon contestants. We must check this process because we cannot continue growing at this rate. This entails the need to provide all these new millions of people with food, clothing, education, and medical services. This means that the increased productivity we are seeking must contain the needs of the increasing population. Furthermore, the state is required to provide 400,000 to 450,000 job opportunities annually. As the population continues to grow, I will have to procure the means of investment and provide new job opportunities each year. How can I achieve all this?

The population is growing everywhere, in places such as Germany and the United Kingdom. If confrontation with this issue requires more effort today we will not hesitate to exert this effort for the sake of God and the homeland. All of our achievements are the result of the awakening for which we have called. Our goal is to establish a renaissance in which we will take a major step in producing what we import from outside, and in facilitating large-scale investment. For instance, if we can produce oil, sugar, and other foodstuffs that we need, we will not be subject to any suffocation or the lack of any commodity. Sometimes we face shortages, and at times we do not find hard currency available to us. This coincides with inconsequential rumors that sugar supplies will diminish and will not be found in the consumer societies, leading us to face various impediments.

If we can set up factories that manufacture spare parts, this will provide millions of dollars in hard currency, which we will then invest in new production schemes. If we manage to eliminate more obstacles to investments, this will facilitate further production and more job opportunities for our youth. I strongly believe that chances for expanded investment are available to us today more than ever before. The response to investment in Egypt, especially by our Arab and non-Arab brothers, has reached a climax these days. So, should we let this opportunity escape us because of routine and trivial complexities and twisted procedures?

Although we have eliminated many difficulties, others remain, which scare away investors. The complaints from investors that I receive are confined to the lack of cooperation on the part of low-level employees when dealing with them. They are alright upstairs, but when they come down, the people open the sewers and inundate them.

The investors do not complain about the state's policy of encouraging investment. Investors are happy with the measures we have implemented by which comprehensive and accurate statements are presented to them defining future investment projects. However, they continue to complain about the responsibility of lower-level executives. I am aware that there are those who understand and who offer to make responsible decisions on the executive level, thank God. But, there also are those who complicate matters and close the open doors, either because they are afraid to make decisions or want to avoid responsibility, or because of a certain objective. This is an obstacle which we can neither accept nor tolerate. I am only being polite. [laughter]

Everyone in all the departments that assume part of the responsibility for investment should be fully aware that Egypt and all of its people would reap great benefits were investments to increase. The argument between the two presidential candidates in France is over investment. This is happening in France, which is one of the advanced countries. They say that if taxes are increased, the investors will take their money and run away to Germany [words indistinct]. France is looking for investors. Russia also is looking for Arab and foreign investors. China is running after investors. But, when it comes to us, we are behaving in a manner that suggests we want to drive the investors away. Why? Of course, the investor has to make a profit if he undertakes a project. What I get in return is production, taxes, and employment opportunities. I need all of these things. If the investor seeks profit, which is quite legitimate, Egypt, too, would reap great benefits, including an increase in production and exports, new employment opportunities for thousands of Egyptians, and the introduction of advanced technology in the industrial, agricultural, and service sectors.

These goals can in no way be underestimated. Therefore, there will be no tolerance or leniency with respect to those who stand in the way of their achievement. If there is anyone who is not ready to shoulder the responsibility, he should yield his position to those who are capable of doing so. [applause] If there is anyone who complicates matters for selfish purposes or objectives, he must be deterred and prosecuted. If there are unnecessary procedures and bureaucratic complications, it is time they are removed. What useful purpose is served if the state mobilizes all its political capabilities and its Arab and international contacts, and then finds that there are those who have cut the lines, dissipated efforts, and obstructed economic reform. This can in no way at all be taken lightly.

We do not want our policy of building for a renaissance to be turned into a policy of lost opportunities. Actually, we are now known as those who have lost opportunities because we do not even want investment here. Just as we scorn people who lose opportunities, we should not repeatedly lose opportunities.

In this regard, I would like to discuss an extremely important topic. We attach great importance to the public sector as the mainstay of development and the producer of basic commodities for the huge masses with limited incomes in Egypt. This sector, when calculating its production output and pricing system, does not seek to make profits. There is some profit, of course, but the profit margin is very reasonable so as to accommodate the majority of low income people. Naturally, we cannot

leave the door wide open, increasing the profit margin from 20 to 80 percent, for example. This would lead to price increases from which you would suffer and on the basis of which you would ask me for a wage increase. Alas, this sector also is needed to alleviate the burdens of those with limited incomes and to create new spheres for production and industry.

If there are shortcomings in some public sector companies, to remedy them does not mean to liquidate the public service companies and squander their potential. This is something from which I have not deviated since I assumed office. [applause] Instead, shortcomings should be overcome by correcting mistakes and terminating points of weakness, whether by upgrading management or by amending the production and distribution structures so as to be in line with market requirements. They also can be overcome by acquiring the most modern technology, and by fostering solidarity between management and workers in order to achieve reform.

Although support for the public sector is a duty and an obligation, this does not mean that some of those in charge of this sector may try to block the road before the private sector. For example, say a private sector company wants to produce a certain commodity. You find somebody from the public sector saying no way, we will not approve it because a project will be set up to produce this commodity in the coming 5-year plan. How illogical. How can this be, as long as you do not have it, or there is a shortage? If the private sector is already producing this commodity, or there is a project for the production of this commodity and construction will start soon, this is fine. But telling the private sector that it cannot start such a project while there is a shortage in the market is wrong. You would be forcing someone to import it, thus costing me money. Therefore, no one in the public sector should stand in the way of the private sector as long as the public sector's production does not fulfill the needs of the citizens. We must give the private sector a chance to work too, because it is a national sector as well. After all, the private sector has factories on your land, paying salaries to our workers, increasing the production of goods, paying taxes, and obtaining technology for you, so there is no harm. There must be absolutely no room for monopoly.

However, support for the public sector does not mean that some of those in charge of this sector may attempt to block the road before the private sector in search of a monopoly, or out of fear or for other reasons—as one worker told me—like starting their own business after they leave their companies. No, this is improper.

I have learned of objections raised by the public sector over the private sector producing certain commodities, merely because they are also produced by the public sector, although their production does not meet the needs of local consumption. Objections are also being made under the pretext that the public sector intends to expand production in the future. Such a situation is neither logical nor acceptable. We would have understood such objections had the public sector production been sufficient for local consumption. I would agree with you then. If the public sector satisfies local needs, I would not produce in the private sector. Had the public sector production been sufficient for local consumption, then it would be in the interest of the national economy that private sector investments be directed toward other activities. However, when the public sector's production is insufficient or of low quality and we prevent the private sector from producing, this demonstrates the wrong outlook, one which fears competition, seeks a monopoly, and totally contravenes our policy of economic reform, increased production, the encouragement of a national industry, and the creation of jobs for our sons.

Brothers and sisters, the challenges will persist as long as growth continues and as long as the will to prosper enjoins us to take rapid steps, act courageously, make creative decisions, and maintain our innovative ability. However, there are obstacles that cannot be eliminated by decrees or laws. These obstacles are closed minds, shaky hands, and weak spirits, as well as the mindless increase of consumption and the senseless growth of our population. These matters cannot be successfully remedied except through a change of habit and behavior, through the fostering of public awareness of the dangers involved, and through the cooperation of all citizens in the battle. The problems that worry all of us are price increases and the inability of wages to keep up with them. The radical and basic solution to these problems is increasing production. There is no other recourse. [applause]

In short, we need plentiful vegetable and fruit production accompanied by a controlled distribution system which will secure moderate prices and reduce waste. We want an increased production of food commodities which will gradually but rapidly replace the need to import these commodities with hard currency. We want more rapid growth in producing manufactured commodities that the people need in there daily lives.

We want to make it easier for every Egyptian, Arab, or foreign investor wanting to set up a factory, farm, or tourist project in Egypt. We are seeking great progress in land reclamation and ownership. It pleases me to announce that Arab contacts are currently being carried out to establish an Arab fund that will finance the reclamation of 200,000 feddans. This will be done, God willing, in the near future. I repeat that all official departments concerned with production and investment must act according to an integrated plan and with a proper understanding of the policy and philosophy of open market production.

Still, I am saying that despite the budget deficit and the inability of our revenues to satisfy all needs, we have formulated a comprehensive policy to adjust the wages of government and public sector employees. [applause]

This policy is based on developing wages to the extent we can bear within the restrictions of our resources, so that these adjustments might lighten the burden of the increasing prices.

The government has just conducted a comprehensive study on this issue and laid down a policy that will be put into effect in stages, starting with the new state budget on 1 July. [applause] This is an integrated step that follows last year's wage increase.

When we say that the government is studying the issue of reforms, it will be done in stages because I need to have revenues before I increase salaries. I have no revenues. We have to find revenues first, which is why reforms must be introduced in stages. There is no country in the world—find me one if you can—in which salaries and pensions are in harmony with price increases. It is impossible for a government to bring about such a balance. Find me one. I asked in France, America, and England. I am talking about the major countries—as for the others, forget it. Things are never in line; they are always lagging behind and it does not matter whether you find something to eat or not. If you work, you eat; if you do not, you do not.

As for the countries that have a lot of money, they just sell oil and pay, no problem. This year our income, according to the current budget, is 18.119 [pounds]. Our expenses—all that we spend, including investments that we need and paying off the domestic and foreign debts and their interest—total 23 billion. This means that we have a deficit of 4.94 billion [figure as heard] pounds. I am disclosing this figure to you to make you understand your country's circumstances. So if I deceive you and tell you that we will give you a 100-percent wage increase, you must realize that you are in for a big trap. The prices will quadruple the next day because, although money will be abundant in the market, there will be an inadequate supply of commodities. A problem arises when you have money, but an insufficient supply of commodities. The two must be equal. Talking about price increases, someone once came and complained to me, saying: Mr President, 1 kg of meat now costs 18 pounds. It cost 12 pounds only 15 days ago. I asked him where. He said at a butcher shop owned by a certain investment company. [Mubarak responds to shouts from audience, saying: "Do not mention names."]

I told him that you have this butcher and there is a demand among the people, but did anyone force you to buy that meat from him for 18 pounds? Naturally, the butcher realized that you were rushing to buy the meat for 12 pounds, so he raised it to 18, and you are still rushing to it. So pay it, as long as you can afford it. But don't rush to the cooperatives to buy the poor peoples' commodities. That is all I ask. If you can afford it, go buy the meat that costs 18 pounds. There he will wrap it up for you in cellophane paper and call you sir and treat you in the flattering manner that we all know well, and then you will pay 18 pounds. Meanwhile, those at the cooperative will just wrap it up poorly in any paper and hand it over to you and that is it. [laughter]

Brothers and sisters: All the efforts that we call for in order to achieve these national objectives can only bear fruit in an atmosphere of democracy and stability.

Democracy provides freedom of work; protects the path from impediments and dangers; leads to diverse opinions, enriching them with creative ideas; enhances individual initiative and self-reliance; and lights the torches of optimism and hope. All this helps perpetuate stability, which in turn encourages increased production and investment and provides all the means of securing development and progress in establishing a rebirth. Without stability, no one can get a single dollar to spend in his country. Even those of you who have money will not keep it here. Let me talk to you in plain language. The stability for which I am exerting my utmost and for the sake of which I am bearing arduous hardship, is for the sake of the people. Both democracy and stability are the fundamental pillars of any construction process. This is an obvious fact in our political system, and it will not be eroded or impaired. Therefore, the primary responsibility borne by the government authorities and by every Egyptian citizen, regardless of the diversity of their opinions, inclinations, and party ambitions, is to preserve democracy by protecting it. This also means securing stability by protecting it.

I regret to say that the view of some people toward this very important fact is still narrow-minded. They favor individual gains over the public interest. I will be frank with you. The conduct of this group of people is governed by methods used in party maneuvering; methods which are still hostage to partisanship with all the partisan greeds and which are in radical conflict with the higher national interest.

The essential and firm goal, which has not and will not change regardless of the circumstances, is for the law to rule the country and provide the judiciary with all the guarantees for safeguarding our independence. Thus, justice will reach everyone without discriminating among citizens, except on the basis of their adherence to and respect for the law. Any deviation from this basic goal is tantamount to leading the state's system into darkness and ignorance, along the path to destruction. If we adamantly refuse allowing the ruler to encroach upon the judiciary's authority and appoint himself a judge against his political opponents—on the basis that this means autocracy and dictatorship—we had better equally demand with the same strength that no citizen be allowed to encroach on the judiciary's authority and give himself the right to issue verdicts that suit his whims and political beliefs, for this would mean that anarchy reigns and the age of ignorance has returned.

Nobody in this country, beginning with the head of state down to any citizen in a position of official or popular responsibility, has the right to exploit the law for his private interests or allow himself to influence the judiciary's authority. All citizens are equal under the law. The use of any tricks to upset this basic rule of the system of government constitutes a poisonous stabbing of our constitutional and democratic entity.

The commission of any action contrary to the law makes it incumbent upon the government authority to apply the supremacy of the law without discriminating between one citizen and another. The government authority should provide guarantees for sound judicial investigations and fair trials under the law. [applause] This is the commitment of every democratic and civilized state, every self-respecting government that performs its duty to the people. These are fundamental principles that guarantee protection for all, be they rulers or ruled, irrespective of how different their political inclinations and ideologies may be. Therefore, it is the duty of everybody, in all trenches and fronts, to observe and respect these principles and to desperately defend them should they come under attack.

As for the supremacy of the law, have you forgotten the issue of the central security [the riots staged by Egyptian police conscripts in Cairo on 25 and 26 February 1986]? The law could have been dashed in 1 minute at that time. What were everyone's feelings and thoughts then? However, I was eager to preserve the supremacy of the law and to maintain freedom and democracy. One could have acted recklessly and [words indistinct], but I look to the future. I look to the future of Egypt. I do not want to cause a tremor in our country. I do not want to do so, for the sake of the coming generations. All adults are now working for the coming generations; nobody is working for himself. You have grown up and become old, and each one of you has a car and a house, and is happy and is working for his children. Is any one of you working for anybody else other than his children? All of us are working for our children; we are all producing for their sake. We are all saving for our children and looking for work for them.

From my position of primary responsibility, I cannot but safeguard the supremacy of the law and respect the sacredness of the judiciary. There will be either law or there will be no law; there will be either justice or no justice; there will be either construction or destruction. This is the only choice.

Brothers and sisters: Some people recently created an artificial uproar when the application of the emergency law was extended. The uproar grew in rhetorical expression to the point of saying that democracy was about to collapse, that Egypt was being ruled with repression and tyranny, and that liberties had disappeared. Some even said that we had returned to the age of darkness, that stability had been severely undermined, that this was going to affect production and tourism, and that everything in this country had collapsed and been destroyed. Meetings, conferences, and symposiums were held. Statements were issued and some withdrew from the People's Assembly in a theatrical manner. Through such statements and rhetorical expressions misguided and misleading calls came, having no significance except in their disregard for the minds amd interests of the public. The calls reached the point of advocating rebellion and disobedience. Rebellion and disobedience! It is the country that will lose. Who is the loser? The country, all the people, will lose, big and small. I am telling you in plain language that with this call the country will lose in every respect. I am responsible for the country's stability and I am doing this in order to secure the livelihood of my citizens. I am making the utmost efforts, with total honesty, sincerity, and conscience. I utilize every minute I have for the sake of the people. [applause]

Do you call for disobedience, civil disobedience? I am building for your sake, and you call for disobedience. I am in charge and I have the authority to adopt measures, so long as the majority approve. I am in charge of the country's stability. I will give you an example. One day I heard that a group had assembled to go and support the Palestinian uprising. And where did they go? They went to the border at Rafah. What is this? Is all that we are doing not enough to prove that we support the uprising? This is an action that you have to coordinate with the state. The country's supreme interest is at stake. Do not drag the country into something with results we cannot know. Suppose you went to the border and some people infiltrated your ranks and opened fire on the Israeli forces on the border. Suppose those forces opened fire on you and killed some of you. What would I do then? Mourn? Declare war? God! We can appreciate the circumstances and know what to do. There is something called the national interest. We have all the pieces of the puzzle before us. There are secrets that we cannot reveal. A revelation would harm the country's interest, but we will use these secrets at the appropriate time.

However, you want to carry out an operation which might drag the country into a pitfall. That is one of two possibilities. Shall we declare war? Suppose they killed two of you. What would you do? Would we conduct funerals and then break up our country inside? Would we shout: down with so and so and down with so and so? What would be gained? God gave us brains to use before doing anything. What is this? We are acting. We are extending more support to the uprising than anybody else. We made the United States act and made it come to the region. There was progress, although not much. Still, we have done what we can. As soon as we moved they said: Oh, oh, President Mubarak wants to abort the uprising. God be blessed. If we move, it means we are aborting the uprising. If we remain silent, they tell us we are not supporting the cause. What is this? We know our responsibility well. We sense the people's pulse, that of the majority of the people. Just as you are a patriot and love your country, I am also a patriot and love my country; I know what I am doing. [applause]

I will not say I am more patriotic than you are, or that you are more patriotic than I am. We are all patriots, but I have all the pieces to the puzzle, while you do not. Sometimes I fear revealing any of these pieces, lest they are leaked. An incident took place some time ago. I do not want to mention names because we are on the air. I advised them [not further specified] and told them: Be careful, for this is a serious matter. All to no avail. They created a fuss and made a hero out of the man [Sulayman Khatir, who killed seven Israeli tourists in the Sinai on 5 October 1985], causing him to perish. Were he alive today they would be saying something else about him. They would take a different position. But no one wants to listen. Do they think they are more concerned than I am about the Egyptian citizen? I am as concerned about him as you are because I consider this citizen as either a brother or a son. I prefer to not give names as this would harm me abroad.

I am certain that you were as surprised by this stand as I was. This stand was taken by people who have no unity of thought or common objective. The cause of my surprise was that I expected those citizens, whose patriotism or loyalty I do not doubt, to direct such enthusiasm to denouncing terrorism and fighting it on all fronts. However, nothing of the sort happened, despite the fact that terrorism is targeted against everyone, without differentiation between the Right or the Left. It is no secret that some of them, not a few actually, are themselves targets of terrorism's chaotic schemes. Despite the fact that this is both privately and publicly known, some people took the liberty to defend and justify terrorism in their newspapers, to aim their spears and level criticism at the Egyptian security personnel, who have assumed the most sublime of all national duties by safeguarding the homeland from the perils of this terrorism and sacrificing themselves for that purpose. [applause]

Is this a commitment to democracy? Is this an honest interpretation of the freedom of the press in Egypt, which today stands without peer compared to past eras in our long history? Where is the eagerness for stability that they keep talking about while encouraging, by direct words or twisted methods, those whose schemes and deeds have revealed their intention to undermine not only stability, but the entire society with all its values, traditions, and beliefs? If such a strange stand is due to fear of terrorism or flattery to its schemers and culprits, then those who decry freedom and democracy had better leave the arena for others who do not fear terrorism, but rather confront it and give priority to the defense of Egypt's domestic front and ensuring the safety of whoever lives on its noble soil. [applause]

And if the cause of this strange and suspicious stand is merely objection to the rule of the majority by applauding terrorist acts and their culprits—something very strange, as no one in the world claps for terrorism and I cannot understand how we could do it—then I believe that no one will disagree with me when I say that this is a trivial thing to do and something that I cannot accept, even if they find in blind partisanship a motive for doing so. I want to ask at this point: Where is the tyranny and the rule of tyrants? Where is the oppression and autocracy? Is it the kind of tyranny that led to the release of all the political detainees and started a new chapter in the relationship with them, based on freedom of opinion and movement? Is it tyranny that allowed the reappearance of all the opposition newspapers after their doors had been shut? Is it oppression under which these opposition newspapers are being published without the slightest sort of restriction or censorship, and in which false accusations are being leveled without confiscation or banning at any time? Those in charge of these newspapers know with certainty that they can be legally questioned about many of the articles they publish.

However, we choose to wait and be patient, hoping that one day the public interest will prevail and that these newspapers will return to sound democratic practices, away from vituperations and disregard for the law. It seems to us, however, that they do not take this fact into consideration. Tomorrow you will see big headlines; never mind them. Is it tyranny that held elections in which 90 opposition figures became deputies in the People's Assembly, something that had never occurred since the start of parliamentary life in Egypt? [applause] There has never been such a large number of opposition deputies in the People's Assembly, or Egyptian parliament, since the beginning of parliamentary life in Egypt. Is it autocracy that allows public rallies, where words of agitation, incitement, and instigation to tamper with stability and disregard the supremacy of law, are uttered?

Let us face up to responsibility in order to defend the people's rights to freedom and stability. Terrorist actions are continuing, and are even constantly escalating. The leaders and instigators of terrorism believe they can be a state within a state and a force above the law. All the people follow these acts with sorrow and condemnation, denouncing whoever is directly or indirectly involved or providing any kind of support or assistance. We do not live on an island that is isolated from what is taking place in the world. There is no denying that terrorism is now an international phenomenon. There are governments around us which are declaring and boasting that they are exporting terrorism and planning to topple the regimes of neighboring countries. There is irrefutable evidence of all this.

How could anyone ask us to stay idle in the face of this terrorist invasion? The power of the state and the awareness of its citizens are capable of defending freedom. The power of the state does not mean oppression and persecution; it is rather meant to achieve justice, protect sanctities, and ensure liberties in order to prevent a treacherous minority from striking at the state, violating the law, and encroaching on the rights of good citizens.

There is no freedom in a weak state that does not protect its sons from the recklessness of saboteurs and evildoers. [applause] There is no freedom in a weak state in which

the supremacy of law collapses. The emergency law does not mean additional punishment. It enables the security organs, under the supervision of the judiciary, to prevent crimes and thwart terrorist plans before they reach the implementation stage. If terrorist crimes continue to take place under the canopy of the emergency law, as some people say, this means that security has protected the country against so many other crimes which were planned in the darkness.

Those arrested under the emergency law are prisoners in preventive custody, with judiciary protection. They enjoy all humanitarian and legal guarantees until the judge passes his final verdict.

Let us look at the former emergency laws. Let us see what kind of emergency laws prevailed before the revolution. You know Mustafa [not further identified]. [words indistinct] [applause] As you see, we have here a witness from his own household. At that time, a citizen used to be thrown into prison, not knowing when he was going to be released. He might have had to stay in prison for 2, 3, 4, or 5 years, depending on his luck. He could have been taken anywhere and he could have died. After the revolution, and in a step taken to defend the revolution, a citizen was kept in custody for 6 months, which could be extended for another 6 months. The judiciary had nothing to do with this. Is that not true? But now 1 month is the maximum, and the judge can order his release. What else do you need? I am trying to ensure that security prevails in the country. I have never arrested a politician because of his political views. And have I ever arrested a newspaper? I only ensure security in order to confront terrorism. If I declare a special law to combat terrorism, they will start shouting: Why a special law? A special law is something permanent. Do you have to start again and say that the special law should be enacted to face special issues? It seems that some people have no idea what a special law is. [applause]

Before, all of the detainees were politicians and opposition figures. But can you tell me where the dictatorship, oppression, and persecution is that they are talking and crying about now? Well over 33 states throughout the world enacted special legislation to confront the phenomenon of terrorism, and nobody said that such states, including the FRG, France, Britain, Italy, and the United States, had given up democracy. But here you want democracy so that every one of us can do whatever he wants. He wants to do this and that and cross the canal to strike near Rafah and so forth. This is impossible. This country wants to survive and is passing down a rocky road. We want development and a better life for our citizens, and we need investments and stability. We will not be able to obtain anything in the absence of security, even if the emergency law or other laws exist.

Let me ask with a loud voice: Has the emergency law been applied against a single politician because of his beliefs or his opinions? [indistinct remark and laughter from the audience] Could it happen? Only if you adopt terrorist beliefs. In such a case I would not let him [not further identified] get away with it. I am telling you straight out: I will not remain silent on terrorism. It is first of all my duty to safeguard the country, according to the law. Deviations outside certain limits will not be allowed because I have to ensure the stability of the country to make room for investments, so that you can live. Do you think I am happy about the youth and graduates who cannot find jobs? It causes me to lie awake at night, and then you talk about mutiny and civil disobedience. You will not find something to eat then. Of course, you are all well-off and satisfied, so what difference does it make to you? [laughter]

Has the emergency law been applied against a single journalist or writer for something that he published, even if it goes beyond all limits? We all know the answer: No, it never happened. So why this unwarranted uproar, this stormy language, this unjustified agitation? I appeal to the brothers in the opposition to stop and clear themselves of any partisan inclinations, chauvinism, or political maneuvers, in order to protect democracy and stability in this country. The time wasted on this futile argument could be used better in other beneficial areas. Democracy means the rule of the majority; it does not mask the opinions of the minority. However, the decision in the end is up to those chosen by the people to lead. [applause]

These are self-evident facts that are not subject to dispute in any democratic state whatsoever. However, some of us like to see the surface and not the roots. The people of Arab and foreign countries speak of the democratic process and stability in Egypt with admiration and appreciation. This accounts for the tremendous influx of tourists throughout the country. We can also see a noticeable increase in the number of incoming investors. So why make this uproar, which is a mere tempest in a teapot? I do not want to divulge secrets here. I mean, I do not want to mention names.

But I find that there are some contacts with my office saying: Give me facilities in such place, or let this matter pass, and I will be silent. What do they take me for? At whose expense shall I let it pass? Is it a farm that I own? They say: Let this matter pass, disregard this or that, or give me facilities in this thing, and to all this I say: No, certainly not. This is the people's property. [applause] Anyone with reason would never approach me in this way at all. I do not accept it, nor do I accept pressure. They threaten that unless I do this for them, they will talk. What? Talk as much as you want; it will not make a difference. [laughter] It is really a regrettable and sorrowful matter.

From this dais on May Day I tell everyone: I am not a professional politician. I do not seek to benefit from power, either directly or indirectly. However, I have made a pledge to God and the people that I shall give and safeguard, and I shall not forsake this pledge. [applause]

The responsibility entrusted to us dictates that we should unite in time of hardship and confront all challenges collectively and consultatively. We should join hands and marshal our efforts in one arena, the arena of national action for creating Egypt's renaissance. There is no room for eloquent words and expressions. There is no place for deceptive methods and maneuvers. There is no room for shows of empty words, tempests in tea pots, or one-upmanship.

The courage of opinion lies in its purity and integrity, not in loud voices and high-pitched noises. Egypt's best interest, the Egyptian people's safety, and stability in Egypt, are more important than all games and ambitions. Egypt shall remain the country of freedom and stability, the country of work and production, the country of sincere believers, not the country of renegades and advocates of darkness.

Dear citizens, the past few weeks have seen successive and extremely important developments at both the regional and international levels. I find it appropriate to discuss them with you and to join together in analyzing and assessing them, observing their results and consequences for the near and distant future, particularly those that affect our national security and strategic interests, which we consider within the broad concept of Egypt's leading role and efforts.

If we start by discussing important developments at the international level, we find that the United States and the Soviet Union have made a great stride toward agreement on limiting nuclear weapons and reducing the dangers of a destructive world war. Undoubtedly this development is an extremely important event, the consequences of which will not be limited to the two superpowers, but will extend to the entire world, even hinting at the start of a new stage in contemporary history. Hence, we welcome the results to date. We look forward to more results in the coming months.

We received with satisfaction reports on the conclusion of an agreement on the Afghan problem. We hope that this agreement will enable the fraternal Afghan people to regain their national unity and strengthen control over their destiny, without constant foreign intervention.

It is the right of peoples struggling for a secure and stable life to expect such developments to contribute to the rectification of the imbalance that has affected the world economic system in the past few decades. This imbalance has created serious conditions and consequences which cannot be ignored or forgotten. The gravest of these is probably that all Third World countries—the exceptions can be counted on one hand—are suffering from the burden of foreign debts, which paralyze their ability to achieve any measure of development. Many of these countries are finding themselves unable to maintain even existing production levels, despite increased consumption due to population growth.

Thus, it is necessary for the world to examine the oppressive regional problems threatening world peace and security or inflicting suffering and other consequences that the regional countries cannot bear. Foremost among the regional problems that deserve this attention and immediate efforts for resolution are those of the Middle East. No one can afford to ignore them or underestimate their potential danger.

The Palestinian issue has witnessed successive developments which should not be interpreted or depicted erroneously. The most prominent of these developments is the uprising by the heroic Palestinian people in the occupied territories, which they have waged with admirable determination. These people have shown the entire world that their aim is to end the occupation and prove the impossibility of leaving matters as they are in the occupied territories.

It is clear that Israel was not able to deal with the Palestinian uprising in a logical manner. It failed to face it; it failed to have a dialogue with the Palestinians; and it failed to use it as a propelling force toward a comprehensive peaceful settlement. We are aware that we have recently intensified our contacts with the influential countries concerned. We have persistently called on them to reactivate their efforts to resume the peace process on principles that have gained unanimous international approval. The United States responded to our call and started to carry out its role, whether by dispatching its secretary of state to the region to contact parties directly concerned with the conflict, or by drafting some ideas and presenting them to the parties with the aim of establishing common ground before the start of negotiations. It seems that these efforts have collided with the rigid rejection of intransigent elements in Israel. These efforts are at a critical turning point, but it is imperative that their vitality and movement are maintained because their continuation in the face of difficulties is the factor that gives them credibility, makes them serious, and demonstrates their sincere intentions.

At the same time, the Soviet Union is showing remarkable interest in discussing all aspects of the peace process with various parties concerned. It is showing an intent to take a flexible and positive stand and a desire to achieve real progress at the negotiating table. Needless to say, all these efforts will bear no fruit if the parties concerned reject them, neglect peace, or immerse themselves in the illusion of unilaterally imposed faits accompli.

One bright, positive factor is that Egypt and Jordan coordinate their efforts continuously at the highest level. I discuss all aspects of the situation with my brother His Majesty King Husayn, whom I am proud to consider a friend and comrade in the procession of liberation and peace. [applause] Joint action and close contacts in the past few weeks have proven that seriousness and selflessness in the service of the common national goal must be reflected in the results of the joint coordinated steps and increase the ability to deal with third parties in the

manner they deserve. We are also in constant touch with the PLO and its leader Yasir 'Arafat [applause] with the aim of reaching a united Arab stand with which we can face others. If such a development were to take place, it could overturn many balances and lay the onus on others in these days when the world is following closely and attentively what is happening in the occupied territories and the peace efforts.

All of this concerns a comprehensive peace settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. But, there remains another pressing problem in the region which, every day, increasingly threatens all states in the area, navigation in the Gulf, and the flow of international commerce. I refer to the fierce war between Iraq and Iran, the flame of which rises daily because of Iran's insistence on continuing the war, the bloodshed, and the waste of resources, which benefits no one. What tears at our hearts is that the spilling of the blood of Muslims continues during this holy month, the month when the Koran was revealed. God made it a blessed month for worship and penance for sins and misdeeds.

Brothers and sisters: Noble African Egypt, which is proud to belong to the glorious continental family and its movements, values, and traditions, gives top priority to action in the African field. It is one of the main fields around which Egyptian national security, in its broad sense, rotates and in which the Egyptian political, economic, and cultural interests crystallize. Therefore, Egypt has intensified its efforts to boost trade and technical cooperation and has set up joint projects with fraternal African states, particularly Nile Basin states. We believe that this will provide all parties with the raw and processed materials they need on terms which do not overstrain their trade balance or expose them to the exploitationist pressures and practices of international trade.

On 25 May the OAU will celebrate its 25th anniversary and hold its annual meeting to discuss important African issues, foremost being the issue of foreign debts. These debts have exhausted the resources of the continent's states and pose a threat to their ability to meet the basic requirements of their citizens, at a time when many of these countries, particularly the Frontline States in the south, are being subjected to aggression by the racist, oppressive minority regime in Pretoria. It is essential for the entire international community to help the African community contain this regime and compel it to recognize the rights of the majority, to whom the land and sovereignty belong, and to implement—without conditions—UN Security Council Resolution 435 on the independence of Namibia, and respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Frontline States.

There is one more foreign policy issue I would like to tell you about. [indistinct remarks by audience, to which Mubarak says: "Thank you."] The issue concerns Libya's thinker, its president [as heard]. In fact, I was not going to talk on this subject, but I did just want to mention it because sometimes there are some amusing things in this regard that might entertain you as I come to the end of my speech. Four of his aircraft landed on our territory by mistake. They [Libyan officials] contacted presidents and kings of some friendly countries, including our brother His Majesty King Fahd Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. I learned that the four aircraft had landed by mistake. The pilots stayed with us for a while. I was in Khartoum at the time. We let them stay, and then his team arrived and the maintenance team came to inspect the aircraft before they took off. He wanted to make a gesture before the people in return for the good treatment—which is our custom—Egypt accorded the technical teams and crews, eschewing torture or beatings. The Libyans once stubbed cigarettes out on the body of a person, a pilot, causing him burns. We do nothing of the sort.

We welcomed them in this, their country; allowed them to go anywhere they wanted; put no restrictions on them; and treated them as ordinary citizens, because we have nothing against them. I saw them and talked to them. It was a general talk and I did not incite them politically against their leader, not at all. Later he stopped abusing us on the radio. Another Arab country later contacted us and told us that the colonel wanted to stop the propaganda campaign and improve relations. I agreed and told them that we do not abuse him; we merely criticize an existing situation. As for him, he constantly calls us names—the treacherous regime, the agent regime, etc.—while he fights every day in [New] Caledonia, Ireland, Nicaragua, the Philippines. He is also forming an army to fight America [shouts]. Let him think as he wants.

Then they told us: Wait, the thinker—they do not call him the head of state—no; he does not decree anything. I asked someone once and he told me, no, he is a Libyan thinker; he will speak on 28 March and there will be important news about Egypt. We said: All right, let us wait for the speech. One person (?visiting us) said: Why do you not send planes to join in their aerial exhibition over there? Oh yes! Just like that! Today we are being cursed, and tomorrow we send planes? No! This is very strange. The colonel delivered his speech on 28 March and what did he say? He said he had decided to eliminate the eastern military zone adjacent to us, adjacent to Marsa Matruh. He also decided to withdraw military forces from all eastern borders and challenged Egypt to send a team to verify that the troops had been withdrawn. At the same time he decided to eliminate the ground forces established to commit armed aggression against Tunisia, and to reconcile Libya with Tunisia. He decided to present all the weapons to Tunisia. What generosity! What great generosity!

He then challenged us to channel the Nile waters from the High Dam to the great river which starts from Al-Kufrah to Tubruq and runs parallel to Banghazi until it reaches their coast. He wanted me to divert water from the Nasir Lake to Al-Kufrah, from Al-Nubariyah to Tubruq. I need only channel the water, and he would pay

money and turn the desert green. Remember 'Abd al-Halim Hafiz? [deceased Egyptian singer noted for patriotic songs] [laughter] To turn the desert green is a difficult task. If only it could be done. But I cannot divert the Nile waters to any other country. According to the Nile waters agreement it is not within my authority.

Let us go back to his statements and decisions. He withdrew troops from our borders? First, neither of us has troops on our borders. He is deceiving the people. Will the people go to the borders to see what is there, while he knows there is nothing there? There is something on the borders: some observations posts near the Tubruq Airport [words indistinct], some additional posts. But there are no troops. We are not in the First World War. In that war armies were deployed on the borders to attack and fight. We do not have armies on the borders. The military issue does not require that we deploy an army on the border. Not at all. He knows I do not want to fight a neighbor, but I have to defend myself as much as I can should anything happen. I do not want to kill Libyan people. War means killing people. I am stronger than he, whether he likes it or not. [applause] But I will never kill people just because I am stronger. No, this issue is the furthest from our minds.

He said the weapons were for Tunisia. There were no weapons for Tunisia or anything of the sort. There is nothing, and it is all lies. Does he have anything? He is deceiving the public. He then contacted me, saying: Let us continue the halt to the radio campaign. I said: Fine. I do not want to attack anyone. Our radio used to analyze his expenses. Do you know the size of Al-Qadhdhafi's income? It used to be about $24 billion. Let us say it is now $18 or $15 billion. This is 30 billion pounds. Let us say it is 20 or 15 billion pounds. What is the population of Libya? It is 1.5 million. Our population is 54 million. Our income is, I believe, 15 billion. Despite this we survive, praise be to God. God provides, and we exist.

The Libyan population is small, but they have no food or water. He wants me to open the border. I answered that I am prepared to open the border, but let us start with something else first, because I have no confidence in him. Let us start first with aircraft landings. Let Libyan planes land here and Egyptian planes land in your country first, I said to him. He answered no. This has been his attitude for several years. He does not want our planes to land in each other's country. This increased my doubts. Let this be the first step, I said. Let your planes land here and let my planes land in your country. I told his envoys this several times. They said he wants the border opened in 24 hours.

I told them: I am prepared to trust you, but I will not open the border now because I do not want terrorists to infiltrate and bring bombs. No, no, no. I know he would try to bring bombs. I do not know what happened later. His envoys came to me saying he does not want to wait. This is very strange. I do not understand the issue. Why does he want to remove the post, but refuse to permit plane landings? Therefore, I will not open the border. He kept quiet for a short while and then said that the border gate was removed. He drove a bulldozer to Tunisia, the way Muhammad al-Fatih did, and removed the gate. When I asked what happened, I was told that this was an old, distant border post, easy to remove.

Do I believe he wants unity with me? I welcome this and I am prepared. I will establish unity so that we may all rest. Indeed, nothing would happen if I did this. Matters would proceed well. Do you want unity? I welcome you. If you want a procession, I will welcome you. If Jallud wants to lead the procession, I will welcome him. I will welcome anyone who marches in the procession. What do you want, I asked? A few days later I discovered that he had done something strange. He had cursed me. In his speech he spoke of the border opening and then cursed me. He cursed and (?threatened) me. He told me to open the border and channel the Nile water to the desert and then cursed me, describing me as the Camp David agent regime.

This is strange logic, but he considers this a [words indistinct]. He considers himself a sound person. What can I do for him?

Then he went to some countries and complained that I did not agree with him on the issue of the great river. The story of this great river is that he spent all he had on it, until he went bankrupt and it failed. They [not further identified] deceived him, telling him that the water would be abundant, would even reach Italy. It turned out that the water had dried up. So, he wants me to make it up for him, negating his loss by giving him water from the High Dam and Al-Nubariyah. He has been asking me this for 4 years and I keep telling him I cannot do it. My words have been to no avail; he insists on it.

This is the story of the thinker. For the past 4 days he has been sending complaints to all countries. One time, Al-Qadhdhafi sent an envoy to those European countries that are our friends to tell them: Please talk to the Egyptian president because he intends to launch a war and to commit aggression against me. Well, I have no intention of making war. What have you done to justify a war, I ask? One time he was training his pilots to bombard the High Dam. I sent word to him, telling him: One of the aircraft might make it, but if so you will pay the price. I will not let you get away with it. [applause] I do not conduct aggression against you, I said, so do not touch the people's resources. If you want to level abuse, go ahead. If you are living in the forties, if you want to level abuse on us, go ahead, it does not make any difference. It is as if one were walking down a street and a child threw a stone at you; what can you tell him? [applause]

Dear brothers and sisters: As you can see from this briefing on facts related to the domestic situation and our Arab and foreign relations, we are standing on green land that promises good fruit. However, we are also

ready for continuous action, with all our energy, strength, faith, and hope, to always make strides forward. The calls for frustration and defamation, as well as attempts to undermine stability and tamper with the people's security will only reflect back on those who initiate them, because the people are always looking forward to a new dawn and because the masses have tired of such oft-repeated talk.

How hopeful I was—and still am—that all hands will join to cooperate, and not cause confusion; that all opinions will be aired to rectify, and not destroy, for it is very easy to destroy, but extremely difficult to build. We are all standing in one arena, in which there is room for all of us—the arena of patriotism and sacrifice. Patriotism means working and appreciating those who have done a good job. Patriotism means protecting our edifice from all the dangers threatening it. It means forming together an impregnable edifice that keeps the homeland safe from the perils of terrorism and sedition. Our drive for development must not be the responsibility of the government alone; it is also the responsibility of each and every citizen because this drive protects the citizens, fulfills their aspirations, meets their needs, and provides for them all requirements of a dignified life. The protection of this drive is not a question of security alone and should not be the concern of the majority party alone because we are protecting the home that shelters us all, and we are all living on the same land and under the same sky, with equal rights and duties. For there is no privilege enjoyed by ruler over ruled, as there is no privilege by a proponent over an opponent. We must all form a firmly cohesive force that can convince those who seek to tamper with the homeland that it is too solid to be undermined by calls for destruction and sabotage and that the time for work and dedication to the homeland cannot be wasted on fruitless and futile things. [passage omitted]

Brothers, we cannot waste a single hour in the struggle for reconstruction. Time wasted in vituperations is an obstacle placed by our own hands in the path of progress and renaissance and serves to condemn the abusers' lack of awareness and their inability to face the seriousness of those who are racing time with relentless work and unshakeable determination. There should not be a single hour wasted, because the civilized world is making great strides and achieving tremendous developments in all arenas of social and economic struggle, for the sake of humanity and man. We will never take the role of mere spectators. We will never adopt the logic of the enemies of success, predicting defeat and calling for chaos under the cover of well-known pretexts which utilize democracy to strike at democracy, and use freedom to violate the freedoms of others. The regime's success will not achieve personal privileges for the rulers, but will be a success for all citizens. It means success for the homeland in providing a dignified life for each citizen living in Egypt. For this reason, those who have a different opinion should rather commit themselves to honesty of purpose, give credit to those who deserve it, accept the success of those who have succeeded, and be objective and aware of the general public interest when leveling a criticism or revealing failure and shortcomings. You all read the newspapers; you see every day that all opinions are free and that the only censorship is that of the reader's own free will, discerning the good from the bad, and the genuine ideas from the trivial. You also follow the People's Assembly and Consultative Council sessions, which go on for many hours, debating the country's problems by means of questions, interpellations, and other means. In fact, the number of deputies taking part in the debate on the government's policy statement has set a record. The government has never run away from discussion, and the Legislative Council has become an illustrious chamber for the exchange of opinions from both the majority and minority, in which the constitutional debates, which reinforce the most magnificent parliamentary practices of democracy, are abundant. This is the kind of freedom that calls for us not to waste a single hour. Free press, free political parties, free deputies—all of these work together after preparing the way for a politically sound atmosphere. Let us all work together to make this atmosphere flourish. Let us work together to put the people in the forefront, carrying the banners and excelling in positions of responsibility. We pin great hopes on the youth of this and the coming generations.

Young people are the main beneficiaries of all the efforts being exerted to improve the economic, social, and humanitarian situation of society. The youth are full of hope. They will feel fulfilled in their work if they find a good example in their leaders in all positions. A good example is represented by professional, accurate, and skillful work, and by insistence on perfection. A good example is one of purity in word and deed. A good example lies in performing duties before demanding rights. A good example lies in the bonds of love, amity, and cooperation.

The epidemic of rancor in the political arena has spread to several other spheres of public work. This is the worst thing that could plague a society. A successful person faces the weight of pressure of those that want to erase his success. An unsuccessful person defames others in order to defend his failure. A spiteful person exploits opportunities to undermine the unity of hearts. It is my duty to warn against the consequences of all this. Such behavior squanders capabilities that can provide much. It wastes time, when not even 1 hour should be lost.

We should all work with unity of hearts before minds. We should all work with hearts full of faith. We should all work with a spirit of brotherhood and like a close-knit family. We should all work without wasting even 1 hour.

The bells are ringing, calling for the struggle of the soul, for the struggle to work, and the struggle of the fighters for Egypt's security, stability, and renaissance.

A renaissance will not be built by the trumpets of hypocrisy, nor by loud shouts. Renaissance calls upon us to face things by speaking the truth and adopting a courageous stand.

Those who are shying away from the battles of renaissance cannot deceive anyone by adopting false stands with which they intend to steer the masses away from their real battle of safeguarding democracy and stability.

Those who are speaking about hunger would do better to play a positive and honorable role in the arena of national action to ease the burden on the destitute, [applause] instead of attempting to stir up trouble, undermining the unity of the nation, and exploiting the pains of the people in maneuvers that do not serve God or the homeland.

Those who are staying away from the battles of national action and who are slandering the knights and men of these honorable battles should reconsider their stand. The people will not forgive them, and history will not forgive them.

They have betrayed trust and shirked their duty. They have run away from the struggle of protecting Egypt from the advocates of backwardness and darkness.

We must be courageous—courageous in our intentions, courageous in our stands, and courageous in confronting problems.

Courage does not mean flexing muscles when chests are weak, or shouting slogans and big words while hearts are pounding with fear. Courage, moreover, does not mean participating in slinging matches when Egypt is seeking loftiness and glory. Courage does not mean stirring up feelings and emotions, poisoning the atmosphere, and sowing sedition. Courage is the honest approach; it is the race to offer sacrifices for the sake of Egypt. Courage is standing fast with solid, unshakeable, and relentless faith. Only men and heroes can defend Egypt. Heroism cannot be created by the words of tendentious writers. Heroism is created by men's deeds.

I say loudly and honestly to all those wreaking havoc in the political arena that they should turn to logic and conscience, give up manipulation and destruction, and follow the difficult road with us. This is the only way to achieve Egypt's renaissance and defend the people of Egypt against every kind of terrorism—the terrorism of words, the terrorism of cowardly bullets, the terrorism of ignorance, and the terrorism of those who rebel against the consensus and will of the people. Those who sympathise with terrorism threaten the nation's renaissance. Those who fear terrorism should not participate in the battles of men. Those who ally themselves with terrorism will be the first victims of it.

I have spoken to you, brothers, from a position of responsibility, from familiarity with every aspect of the situation, and from an honest understanding of all the facts of the situation. My address to you is a straightforward invitation to contribute to the unity of the nation. It is a call from the bottom of my heart to every Egyptian, male and female, to be vigilant against everything planned overtly or covertly against us. The near and distant future brings us good tidings. Hence, our call to redouble your efforts and work. And say: Work. Soon will God observe your work, and his apostle, and the believers. [Koranic verse]. We implore God Almighty to guide us on the right road. God listens and responds. May God grant us success. May peace and God's blessings be upon you. [applause]

Morocco

King Receives UN Secretary General 2 May

LD022358 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] This evening at the Royal Court, His Majesty King Hassan II, accompanied by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed and His Royal Highness Prince Moulay Rashid, received UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who was accompanied by Issa Diallo, director of his office.

The meeting was attended by Abdellatif Filali, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, and Dris Slaoui, Morocco's permanent representative at the United Nations. His majesty's adviser, Ahmed Reda Guedira, was also present.

UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar arived in Rabat this evening on a working visit. He made a statement at the airport lounge in which he stressed he was going to have mutually beneficial talks with His Majesty King Hassan II and members of the government.

The UN secretary general and his delegation were welcomed by Abdellatif Filali, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation; Dris Slaoui, Morocco's permanent representative at the United Nations, representatives of UN organizations in Rabat; and some prominent personalities.

Sudan

SPLA Reports 18, 23 April Ambushes

EA021555 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 2 May 88

[Excerpts] Combined SPLA force of Zalan and Tughyan Battalions, under the direct operational command of Captain (Matur Chut Dhol) and Captain Andrew Mony

Deng Kuot and the overall command of alternate commander (Philip Ayuwen Lveth), deputy zonal commander of lakes, carried out a coordinated raid into the enemy troop positions in Rumbek secondary school buildings and the provincial headquarters, now used to house the enemy soldiers.

The raid, which took place on 18 April 1988, claimed the lives of 18 enemy soldiers and many others were injured. Correspondent for the Radio SPLA in the area says that the enemy also suffered widespread damages in materials, which included the destruction of one antiaircraft gun and demolition of two foxholes.

The units of Zalan Battalion tore down one side of the barbed wire and occupied the first trenches, forcing the enemy troops to flee leaving behind their dead. [passage omitted]

SPLA force of Acuil Manyang task force, under the operational command of Captain Akoy Deng Akoy and the overall command of alternate Commander (Justin Jok Chalich), supported with mortars, raided the enemy troop positions at (Pokaw) and at the airport on 23 April 1988, killing and wounding several enemy soldiers. The enemy also suffered widespread damages in materials. [passage omitted]

'Heavy Fighting' Reported Near Waw 27, 28 Apr

EA021546 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Latuka 1100 GMT 2 May 88

[Excerpt] On 27 and 28 of last month [April], SPLA forces of Bee, Shark, Zalan, Lazim and Minshar Battalions, under the direct command of Captain Edward Achunyi Dao, under the overall command of Agasio Akol Tong and under the zonal command of Bona Bang Dhol, ambushed enemy troops 11 miles from Waw on the Waw-Tonj road. The enemy convoy consisted of 67 vehicles, all trucks.

During these 2 days of heavy fighting, 150 enemy troops were killed. These included eight officers whose ranks were identified as follows: One major, three captains, two first lieutenants and two second lieutentants.

Four vehicles were destroyed, but SPLA forces could not find the license plates. One antiaircraft gun was also destroyed. Our correspondent says that more than 20 enemy soldiers were wounded and the rest fled to Waw. Thirty vehicles managed to enter Tonj town. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Prime Minister Interviewed on Gulf Issues

JN021615 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English
1 May 88 pp 1, 2

[By Ahmad al-Jarallah]

[Text] Other Gulf states may follow Saudi Arabia in severing ties with Iran if relations between these countries and Iran deteriorate, Bahraini Premier Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman has said. Supporting Saudi Arabia's decision to break ties with Tehran, he said: "Any other country would naturally do so if relations with Iran had reached the same point as the Saudi-Iranian relations."

In an exclusive interview Shaykh Al Khalifah said, there are some who believe that Saudi Arabia should have cut off diplomatic relations with Iran long ago.

"Saudi Arabia has shown a great deal of wisdom and patience towards Iran, which has been witnessed by the whole world. But it seems that Iran abused this patience. The people in the Gulf want to see an end to the Iran-Iraq war but Iran does not want peace.

"If Iran accepts an end to this war, it will improve its relations with the peoples of the region," he said. The premier added: "I personally feel that the situation of the war is not the same as it was in the past, which, perhaps, gives us hope that reason will prevail to end this war."

Shaykh Al Khalifah remarked that the war is taking a heavy toll on human and economic resources. "Most of us have plans for development and construction based on the end of this war." The premier maintained that Arab unity has been strengthened since the summit in Amman and that with this unity the Arab world was better prepared to face threats from Iran or other enemies. He added: "Egypt, the heart of the Arab world, has returned to its active role in the Arab group."

"The Arab position is better now," Shaykh Al Khalifah said, "but needs to be strengthened more." "Desperate strikes may come from Iran or others."

Commenting on the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner, Shaykh Al Khalifah said Bahrain was concerned about this incident for several reasons, one of which was the fact that the hijackers carried forged Bahraini passports. The premier praised the principled and unified stand taken by Kuwait, saying they had defeated the aim of the terrorists. He said: "Any weak stand in the face of the hijackers would be a disaster resulting in an increase in blackmailing, especially among Gulf states."

Shaykh Al Khalifah asked Algeria to provide information about the hijackers because of the forged Bahraini passports held by the air pirates and to contribute toward bringing them to trial. "We want to cooperate in revealing the nature of these hijackers to try those who disturbed the security of the world."

Shaykh Al Khalifah, who visited Baghdad just before the liberation of the Al-Faw Peninsula, expressed surprise that the country was developing missiles such as the Al-Husayn, in spite of the eight years of war. He said that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn was confident of his country's development plans and discussed them with the same enthusiasm as he spoke of defending his country.

The Bahraini premier remarked about the strength and confidence displayed by Saddam, saying: "He was smiling all the time." He added: "I was pleased with the Iraqi welcome and even more pleased with the high morale of the Iraqi people."

Regarding the Gulf Cooperation Council summit, which is scheduled to be held in Bahrain in a few months, Shaykh Al Khalifah said as the region is passing through so many changes, the summit would have a character reflecting this.

"The Gulf arena has witnessed many developments," he said, "all leading to the important fact that the GCC should have stronger solidarity."

Commenting on the uprising in the occupied territories, Shaykh Al Khalifah said: "We should document the events of the uprising and give it to those who try to play down the Arab rights in Palestine." He attributed the continuation of the uprising to the improved Arab atmosphere which has prevailed since the Amman summit. He added that the uprising has been responsible for bringing Israeli brutality to world television.

Moving to Bahrain's economic situation, the premier said Bahrain's economy reflects the world economic situation. He elaborated: "We suffer from a diffiuclt situation...the war of oil prices has calmed down and has become more stable in the last two years." He explained that if the reduction called for by OPEC members in world oil production is followed, the prices will remain stable or increase. "This means that many of the other economic variables, such as currency prices, will stabilise," he added. Shaykh Al Khalifah said this stability would be reflected in the Bahraini economy.

He said that tourism is an important industry in Bahrain and that the development of this sector would increase the state income. He added that the Bahrain-Saudi Causeway had made transportation easy, but said: "What we want is to carry out the GCC unified economic agreement as soon as possible."

"We feel the importance of this economic link...we want to link the people of the GCC states together by all means," he added.

Kuwait

AL-QABAS Urges 'Confrontational' GCC Approach

JN011501 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 28 Apr 88 p 1

[Editorial: "Confrontational Approach Is Needed"]

[Text] The GCC was established mainly so its member states could present a solid front against challenges, the underlying rationale being that a unified bloc carries more weight regionally and worldwide. The GCC has since faced many challenges and dangers without presenting a unified political front.

The fact that most of the GCC's member states have been subjected to aggression, alternately overt, covert, or by proxy, amply demonstrates that all of our countries are potential targets of threat and aggression, and that none of them is immune. It is not enough for these countries to approach these covert plots individually. It is not enough of a deterrent to look on as each country is subjected to aggression. One of the GCC's member states is now in a diplomatic confrontation with a party from outside its membership. It is absolutely necessary to sort out friends and foes. The policies of appeasement to ward off dangers are no longer appropriate. After Saudi Arabia severed ties with Tehran on security and substantially political grounds, the council must rethink its approach and work on a unified stand not only to support Saudi Arabia but to establish ground rules for dealing with short-and long-term threats to its members.

It is, therefore, important for our countries to first effect a policy change and accept the need for standing up to the perils fairly and squarely and then to make full use of the political and military framework at our disposal—that is, the GCC—in formulating a political and security plan to confront the danger and root out its causes. Procrastination no longer pays.

PDRY

Deputy Prime Minister Returns From YAR Visit

LD021558 Aden ANA in Arabic 1150 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] Aden, 2 May—Comrade Salih Abu Bakr ibn Husaynun, member of the Central Committee, deputy prime minister, and minister of energy and minerals, arrived in Aden this morning from Sanaa. In a statement to ANA, Comrade Husaynun said he had delivered a letter from Comrade 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, to his brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress of the northern part of the homeland. The letter pertains to a number of issues affecting unity action and (?consultations) on issues of bilateral interest.

He said he had met a number of officials of the northern part of the homeland, including Brothers Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, minister of state for Yemeni unity affairs and member of the Standing Committee, and Ahmad 'Ali Muhani, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, with whom he exchanged views on all issues of natural resource exploitation in the interests of the Yemeni people. He said his meetings with Brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and with the ministers were positive.

(?They stressed) a joint determination to bring about the best forms of coordination and joint action in the exploitation of natural resources in a manner conducive to the realization of the peaceful and democratic unification of the homeland. He stressed that his visit was made to affirm the constant contacts between the leaders of the two parts of the homeland, the last of these contacts having been the Ta'izz summit between Comrade 'Ali Salim al-Bid and Brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih last month.

Defense Minister Leaves for Visit to Poland

LD021543 Aden ANA in Arabic 1145 GMT 2 May 88

[Excerpt] Aden, 2 May (ANA)—Comrade Colonel Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad, member of the Political Bureau and defense minister, has left Aden for the Polish People's Republic leading a military delegation at the official invitation of the Polish defense minister.

In a statement to ANA, Comrade Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad said: This visit is a natural extension of the friendship and cooperation between our two parties, peoples, and armies. We will also be seeking areas of cooperation between the two countries, parties, and armies and ways of developing and consolidating them to our mutual benefit and in the interest of our continuing cooperation.

He went on to say that during the visit views will be exchanged on a number of regional and international issues of mutual interest and information will be acquired about the Polish Armed Forces' constructive military and political experience as a vanguard in this sphere.

In conclusion he said: We are confident that our visit will constitute a new qualitative move [naqlah nawiyyah jadidah] in the course of our comradely relations. It will certainly contribute to the joint struggle to strengthen peace and security and against the threat of war being posed by the world's imperialist and reactionary forces both regionally and internationally. [passage omitted]

YSP Official Returns After Talks in Kabul

EA021554 Aden ANA in Arabic 1315 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] Aden, 2 May (ANA)—Comrade Mahdi 'Abdallah Sa'id, member of the Central Committee and head of the Higher Committee for People's Control, returned to

Aden last night after participating in the Afghan people's celebration of the first jubilee [as received] anniversary of the Afghan April revolution.

ANA has learned that, during his visit, Comrade Mahdi 'Abdallah Sa'd met Comrade Najibullah, secretary general of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and president of the Republic, who gave him two messages for Comrade 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, and Comrade Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council. The messages relate to the latest developments concerning the Afghanistan issue and, in particular, the recent signing of the Geneva agreement.

Comrade Mahdi 'Abdallah Sa'id pointed out that during his meeting with Comrade Najibullah he stressed that the party and people of Democratic Yemen stand alongside the Afghan people in their struggle. He also stressed their support for the Geneva agreement in the Afghanistan issue and for the strengthening of party relations [word indistinct] in the interests of the two friendly countries.

He added that the secretary general of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan expressed appreciation for the principled stand of the YSP and the PDRY people alongside the Afghan party and people, enabling them to overcome all the conspiracies being hatched by the counterrevolutionary, imperialist, and reactionary forces all of which are opposed to the aspirations of the Afghan people.

Saudi Arabia

Egypt's 'Abd al-Majid Arrives in Jeddah 2 May

LD021704 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1618 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] Jeddah, 2 May (SPA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived in Jeddah this evening to perform the minor pilgrimage. He was greeted on arrival by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister; As'ad 'Abd al-Nasr, ambassador of the Kingdom to Egypt; Salim Sunbul [name as received], director of the Foreign Ministry's branch in the western region; and Sayyid al-Masri, Egyptian ambassador to the Kingdom.

Meets Foreign Minister

LD022108 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2030 GMT 2 May 88

[Excerpt] Jeddah 2 May (SPA)—His royal highness the foreign minister, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, met this evening in Jeddah with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, the Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who is currently visiting the Kingdom on a minor pilgrimage. During the meeting a number of subjects of mutual interest and ways to strengthen the fraternal relations between the two countries in all fields were discussed. [passage omitted]

Government Donates $14.5 Million for PLO Support

LD022102 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2030 GMT 2 May 88

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 2 May (SPA)—Mr Rafiq Shakir al-Natshah, member of the Fatah Movement's Central Committee and PLO representative to the Kingdom, has said that the organization today received the sum of $14.5 million from the Saudi Arabian Government to support the PLO, in fulfillment of the Kingdom's commitment to the resolution of the 1978 Baghdad summit. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Minister, Sharjah Ruler Meet Iran's Besharati

LD030828 Tehran IRNA in English 0804 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, May 3, IRNA—Visiting acting foreign minister of Iran 'Ali Mohammad Besharati met with UAE Minister of Finance and Industry Shaykh Hamdan ibn Rashid here Monday and discussed with him mutual relations and latest developments in the Persian Gulf. Both sides stressed the need for further expansion of Iran-UAE relations and for exchanging delegations.

Besharati who arrived here Sunday met with ruler of Sharjah Shaykh Sultan ibn Mohammad al-Qasimi Monday night and raised issues in relation with regional developments, military presence of foreign powers and threats of their continued presence. The UAE officials in their meetings with Besharati expressed pleasure with long standing ties between Iran and UAE.

Yemen Arab Republic

Official Departs for Aden With Salih Message

JN022057 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] Brother Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, minister of state for Yemeni unity affairs and Standing Committee member, left for Aden this evening on a visit to the southern part of the homeland. In a statement to SABA', Brother al-'Arashi explained that he will deliver a message from Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, Armed Forces commander in chief, and General People's Congress secretary general, to his brother, 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee in the southern part of the homeland.

RCC Member, 'Arafat Mark PLF Anniversary

JN021955 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1826 GMT
2 May 88

[Text] Baghdad, 2 May (INA)—The Palestine Liberation Front [PLF] held a popular celebration here today on its anniversary. At the onset of the celebration, a minute of silence was observed in honor of the Arab nation's martyrs.

In a speech he delivered on this occasion, RCC member Sa'dun Shakir congratulated the PLF leaders, cadres, strugglers, and fighters on the PLF's anniversary.

He said: Your celebration today comes while the Iraqis, Palestinians, and Arabs are rejoicing over the liberation of beloved Al-Faw and its return, free and proud, to the Arab fold.

Sa'dun Shakir said the liberation of Al-Faw is the first act of liberation of an occupied Arab land and an occupied Arab city in this modern age and that this resplendant pan-Arab achievement is no coincidence.

He added: This liberation has taken place within the context of these bountiful offerings and as the upshot of the march that has witnessed the desperate defense of principles in the face of conspiracies of all forms and types.

He said: While we stand together armed with the Palestinian people's blessed uprising and with Iraq's victories and steadfastness, we must be fully alert to the dangers that engulf our nation and that will engulf us first and foremost in retaliation for the advanced level of heroism the Palestinian and Iraqi peoples have demonstrated.

He said the most important duties and requisites of Arab militant action now are to bring about the fruition of a pan-Arab strategy that depends on the people.

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said the Iraqi Army's victory in liberating Al-Faw and the escalation of the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied homeland are good tidings of the nation's inevitable victory.

He added that Iraq's fighters, led by President Saddam Husayn, are fighting on the eastern flank of the Arab homeland not only in defense of Iraq, but also in defense of the Arab nation from the Gulf to the ocean.

'Arafat also affirmed that the joint Iraqi and Palestinian determination to fight is evidence that this great nation was created to continue to achieve victory and that this land will remain Arab.

During the celebration, a PLF speech was also delivered. It stressed that this occasion will incite struggle under the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative, against the Zionist enemy. The PLF called for unified Arab support for Iraq in its confrontation of the Iranian aggression against the Arab land.

Speeches by the Palestinian popular organizations in Iraq also stressed that Iraq has proved through the epic of the liberation of Al-Faw that it is able not only to protect its land, but also to protect the Arab homeland from the invaders and covetors.

They also said that through its brave and wise leaders, Iraq can repulse the Iranian enemy and its supporters.

The celebration also included artistic and folkloric activities by the cubs of the Arab Liberation Front, which hailed the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied territories and their confrontation of the Zionist entity's criminal practices.

Oil Minister Returns After OPEC Meetings

JN021216 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT
2 May 88

[Text] Baghdad, 2 May (INA)—Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim returned here early this morning after participating in OPEC's consultative meeting which concluded in Vienna yesterday.

In a statement to INA, the minister affirmed that Iraq supports the efforts aimed at protecting oil prices and achieving stability in the oil markets.

He added that through common stands with OPEC members, Iraq aims to reach positive and fair results in the interests of all producers.

The Iraqi oil minister noted that the ministerial meeting discussed the present conditions in the oil market in light of the present prices of crude oil.

The meeting also dealt with the proposal by a number of non-OPEC countries to support oil prices in the world market and to raise the present actual price level to the level officially decided by OPEC.

The oil minister noted that the OPEC ministers decided to continue consultations and contacts between OPEC and non-OPEC members to enhance stability in the world market and to support official prices.

He said that the direct dialogue with a specific objective between OPEC and non-OPEC producers constitutes a positive turning point and initiative on the level of cooperation.

The dialogue also expressed conviction of the need for the participation of both non-OPEC and OPEC producers in shouldering the burdens of subsidizing prices to prevent damage to the interests of all oil producers, he said.

Concluding his statement, the Iraqi oil minister pointed out that responsibility for preserving stability in the oil market is a common one. This responsibility should not be shouldered by OPEC members only, which have suffered a great deal in this regard, but also by all non-OPEC producers, the minister said.

Communique No 3,164 Details 1-2 May Combat

JN021734 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 May 88

[Communique No 3,164 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 2 May]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Following is our units' activities for last night and today:

1. A force from one of our units in the I Army Corps northern sector clashed with an enemy ambush, killing all its personnel. It returned safely to base, praise be to God.

2. Four observation posts and one 106-mm gun were destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector. One scoundrel was killed, one ammunition dump was blown up, and one shovel [preceding word in English] was destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

3. One machinegun and one observation post were destroyed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan. One of our units in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris spotted three enemy boats, pounded them with its weapons, and destroyed and sank one boat along with the scoundrels aboard it. The other two boats fled. In other areas of the same sector, three enemy rafts were destroyed, killing all their occupants.

4. Four ammunition dumps were blown up and one enemy soldier was killed in the VII Army Corps sector.

5. A number of Iranian soldiers sought refuge with our forward units. They were safely evacuated to the rear lines.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 2 May 1988

IDF Launches Search Operation in South Lebanon

'Terrorists,' Weapons Sought

TA0305053088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] IDF forces are searching for terrorist squads and their collaborators on the western slopes of Mount Hermon and in southern Lebanon. The searches focus on the eastern sector of the security zone and its edges, the area which lately has served as an infrastructure for organizing and an axis for infiltration of Palestinian terrorist squads which tried to penetrate Israel. Those terrorists wanted to perpetrate terrorist acts for the purpose of bargaining and for killing people in the settlements along the northern border.

In the course of the search, IDF soldiers disseminated warning leaflets to the residents of the region, which stated that the operation is aimed at the terrorists and their collaborators. The residents of the region should take care not to allow their places of residence to turn into terrorist bases.

Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that over the last 4 months there have been eight infiltration attempts in which 5 IDF soldiers and 17 terrorists have been killed.

At the end of the search the IDF force will return to Israel's territory. The goal of the operation is not to expand the boundaries of the security zone or to take over territory, but to search for terrorists and weapons and to destroy the infrastructure of the terrorist organizations.

The IDF has a reply and a military solution to every terrorist threat north of the border. This was stated last night by a senior officer in a talk with settlement leaders in the Galilee Panhandle.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the senior officer nevertheless emphasized that Israel imposes severe limitations on itself in order to prevent any harm to Lebanese civilians, who are themselves victims of the terrorist organizations.

A report by the UNIFIL Command which was released in Lebanon this morning states that about 1,300 IDF soldiers, with armored personnel carriers and tanks, are now combing villages in southern Lebanon.

The UNIFIL spokesman told our correspondent in the north that at dawn the soldiers began searching house-to-house as well as in the wadis at the entrances to the villages. Quiet prevailed in the region during the night.

IDF Spokesman on Operation

JN030543 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 0430 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] An IDF force carried out a combing operation in southern Lebanon's security zone and adjacent areas. An IDF spokesman said the combing operations are part of the usual security activities carried out by the IDF in the security zone and adjacent areas following increased attempts recently to infiltrate Israeli territory to stage killings and extortion. The spokesman added that IDF activity in the security zone will conclude at the end of the searches.

The UNIFIL spokesman in Lebanon said the NBC reports on the size of the troops carrying out the operation is exaggerated. NBC reported last night that approximately 2,000 Israeli troops entered southern Lebanon in a combing operation to search for terrorists and their positions.

A UNIFIL spokesman said such a large force could not have entered the area where UNIFIL is deployed without UNIFIL detecting them.

The Voice of Israel monitor reports that the U.S. television network CBS reported that the force carrying out the combing operation numbers approximately 600 soldiers.

Citing Lebanese police, the BBC reported that the IDF arrested a number of suspected terrorists.

Sidon security sources said Israeli artillery shelled several villages in the Al-Nabatiyah area last night and that as of 2030 on 2 May Israeli aircraft carried out mock raids and dropped hundreds of flares on Sidon and its camps, Iqlim al-Kharrub, Al-Damur, and the vicinity of Beirut International Airport. This was reported by Voice of Lebanon which added that an Israeli frigate directed spotlights to assist the Israeli Air Force.

IDF Encounters 'No Resistance'

TA0305061888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the IDF force in southern Lebanon has met with no resistance. She notes that the combing operation will continue for a while longer, and that its goal is limited: to search and the destroy the infrastructure of terrorist organizations.

Our correspondent adds that expansion of the security zone is not on the agenda. The aim is an active defense in response to the increased attempts to infiltrate Israel's territory north of Mount Hermon.

Minister Moda'i Comments

TA0305063588 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 3 May 88

[Interview with Yitzhaq Moda'i, minister without portfolio, by Mikha Friedman—live]

[Text] [Friedman] Our first guest this morning is Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i, member of the Inner Cabinet dealing with political and defense affairs. Good morning to you.

[Moda'i] Good morning.

[Friedman] What is the goal of the operation, as defined by the political ranks?

[Moda'i] The IDF has issued a statement saying that it has been charged with the task of clearing the area inside the security zone, as well as north of the security zone, of terrorist bases and collaborators.

[Friedman] Why is the operation limited, both in time and space? Why not an in-depth operation, a more powerful and thorough one? Why not destroy their infrastructure?

[Moda'i] There is no limit to depth. If one wants to clear the Middle East of terrorists, you understand where that would lead. There is more logic, however, in clearing the area near our borders, with the terrorists still concentrated in their bases, than in safeguarding this very long border.

The task is somewhat of a burden. Nevertheless, the terrorists' infiltrations have not been successful at all so far, although there have been increased attempts recently.

[Friedman] When we are told: This time the operation will take 24 hours, 48 hours at the most—how are we supposed to treat such a statement in light of past experience?

[Moda'i] Just as you have been told. The IDF has never issued misleading statements, and there is no reason for it to do so now. This is the task imposed on the IDF by the political ranks, an understandable task.

We have said we would hit terrorists wherever they are, and we have taken some precautions against getting involved with the other elements in the area, i.e. the Syrians.

[Friedman] Why is a large-scale operation which in 1982 suited the purpose of achieving peace in the Galilee, wrong for today? Why not repeat it now?

[Moda'i] The situation assessments and operative abilities have, of course, changed. This is not a stable, unvarying factor. It would not be smart to use the same solution each time the subject of terrorists from the north, from Lebanon, comes up.

Therefore, we must accept the operation as defined and at this very moment as it is being carried out by the IDF. All in all, there is no need to blow the thing out of proportion. We will see the IDF complete its mission and return home in 24 hours.

[Friedman] Does the recurring need for such operations prove anything regarding the results of that war, the peace for Galilee war?

[Moda'i] This deed proves that the terrorists were indeed beaten quite seriously. They at least removed their headquarters from the Israeli border. At the same time, terrorism is a lasting cancer. We are familiar with it, in both Lebanon and other places.

The fact that they returned to Lebanon 6 years later does not surprise us, and we do not think the present operation will be the one conclusive strike to end all terrorist attacks from Lebanon. We are certain, however, that it would facilitate the IDF's task of guarding the northern border.

[Friedman] I will remind you of former Prime Minister Menahem Begin's remarks: He said that the land shall be quiet for 40 years. Why not try and make this true?

[Moda'i] Have I not explained this already? First of all, we have seen that one does not attain the goal of vanquishing terrorism through the occupation of lands.

Second, it might have been true for that time, and is not necessarily true now. The definition of the current operation is absolutely clear, and there are no illusions.

I have already said that this move will neither clear the north of terrorist activities for 40, nor for 4 years. This is, however, a continuous activity, and we will not tire. We will persevere.

[Friedman] Earlier you mentioned another element present in the area—the Syrians—and you were confident that they would not interfere. How can we be certain this will indeed be so?

[Moda'i] The matter is very simple. The Syrians have been harboring terrorists and supporting their activities; I can say even encouraging them. Naturally, this is not an open kind of activity, so there is no reason to clash with the Syrians.

We are operating in the area in which the terrorists are active and which is out of the Syrian umbrella's direct reach. I believe we will now clear this area.

[Friedman] Is the operation against pro-Syrian terrorists as well?

[Moda'i] Perhaps against pro-Syrian terrorists as well, if they have penetrated the sector the IDF is now supposed to act in.

[Friedman] And the expression "new order," I do not suppose we will hear it from you?

[Moda'i] No, no way. You did not hear this expression from me then, either.

[Friedman] Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i, I thank you.

Approval at 'Highest Levels'

TA0305080088 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 3 May 88 pp 1, 12

[Report by Dani Sade, 'Uzi Mahanaymi, Gad Li'or, New York-based correspondent Tzadoq Yehezqeli, and news agencies in Lebanon]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] It has been learned that the IDF operation in Lebanon was approved on the highest levels, at the prime ministers' forum—Yitzhaq Shamir, Shim'on Peres, and Yitzhaq Rabin—immediately after the two clashes with the terrorist squads which infiltrated Israel last week.

On the basis of reviews by security elements, led by the chief of staff, it was decided at the most senior forum that it is necessary to guarantee a continuation of the quiet in the Galilee which had been disrupted since the beginning of the year by eight attempted infiltrations into Israeli territory. Killed in this activity were 15 terrorists [as heard] as well as 5 IDF soldiers.

The IDF decided to restore calm through preventive and deterrent acts, including the liquidation of terrorist nests on the edges of the security zone in southern Lebanon.

It has been learned that the decision on the operation was passed on to the attention of several Inner Cabinet members as well.

The timing chosen for the operation did not follow closely behind the infiltration of the terrorist squads into Israel so as to prevent the terrorists, who were expecting immediate retaliation, from being prepared for such an operation. [passage omitted]

SLA Assists in IDF Searches

TA0305090288 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] The IDF is moving from house to house in the search area in south Lebanon. Menahem Horowitz updates from the north:

[Begin recording] We have learned from UNIFIL headquarters that IDF soldiers are conducting searches mainly in the vicinity of the villages of Kafr Shuba and Shab'a.

They are disseminating leaflets saying that the residents are requested to prevent their region from becoming an Israel-bound terrorists' exit base. UNIFIL headquarters further report a movement of IDF armored vehicles toward Kawkaba and Hasbayya in Lebanon's eastern sector.

Our correspondent Gadi Hitman reports from Lebanese sources that IDF troops, assisted by 500 South Lebanese Army [SLA] soldiers, have crossed the security zone's northern part, and have surrounded two villages: 'Ayn 'Ata and Libbaya, about 10 km northeast of the security zone.

An eyewitness told a REUTER reporter in Lebanon that the IDF had encountered no opposition while conducting the searches in south Lebanon. [end recording]

Shamir: Move 'Usual Action'

TA0305102888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 3 May 88

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Vivien Roysten "a short while ago" during a visit to Bet She'an—recorded]

[Text] [Roysten] What is the aim of the present action of the IDF in Lebanon?

[Shamir] It is a usual action of watching and securing the area from attacks of terrorists.

[Roysten] Does it indicate a new policy by Israel towards the terrorists?

[Shamir] Not at all. There is no change and no need of change in our policy in this area.

[Roysten] Is there not a danger that once Israel enters into Lebanon and tries to clear these terrorists, those terrorists, that it'll end up getting stuck there, in the Lebanon quagmire?

[Shamir] I don't think there is such a danger. It's a matter of decision, and we have decided to do it as we do it.

[Roysten] With regard to the Galilee operation: We said that we'd only go in as far as 45 km, and yet we end up reaching Beirut.

[Shamir] You cannot compare every move with another move. This is now the decision, and the decision will be implemented.

[Roysten] What about the Syrians? Is there now any danger of encountering and resulting in engaging with the Syrians?

[Shamir] I don't think there is such a danger because this action is not aimed against anybody.

Peled Views Operation's Aim

TA0305105688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] The head of Northern Command, General Yosi Peled, says he sees no need to extend the security zone in Lebanon. Reporter Alan Ben-'Ami, who is with the Israeli forces in south Lebanon, has just interviewed Gen Peled.

[Begin recording] [Ben-'Ami] Gen Peled, what's the basic aim of this operation?

[Peled] It's part of the whole system along the Israeli-Lebanese border. It's part of our activities, it's a way of taking initiative in a different way than we did, let's say, in the last 10 or 12 months. We came to the conclusion that we have to take this kind of operation because... [changes thought] I felt that during the last 3 or 4 weeks, it was really an increasing of terrorist activity against Israel, so I think that it's one of the ways that we have to fight the terrorists.

[Ben-'Ami] This area was once known as Fatahland because the amount of terrorist activity taking place here, the infiltration routes used to reach Israel by terrorists. Do you see any situation developing where it could become Fatahland again?

[Peled] Look, here everything can happen, but I think that we are still far from a situation that you described now. I don't know anything that it's even near to be again Fatahland, and one reason of all reasons that we are acting now here is to prevent such a situation.

[Ben-'Ami] One of the aims of the operation is also to get a clear message over to villagers in the area not to help or assist terrorists. Just how much, in fact, is there cooperation between villagers and villages in the area and terrorists?

[Peled] According to our experience, it's a very efficient way in Lebanon to give a message to the villages and the people that live here and I hope and believe that they will get the message that they cannot cooperate with the terrorists against Israel. I hope they will get the message.

[Ben-'Ami] Would you say there has been widespread cooperation up to now?

[Peled] No, it's not really wide cooperation, but I think it's better to try to solve the problem when it just starts than waiting and it's already a big problem and it is has to be a very large and wide operation, so I think it's more clever to do it quickly as possible and in small sizes, relatively small sizes.

[Ben-'Ami] One or two [word indistinct] of the Al-Biqa' area of Lebanon, the region where Syrian troops are in control. Are you concerned at all that in fact you may run into Syrian troops in this operation?

[Peled] I don't think that we have to be worried too much because I'm sure that the Syrians already know exactly what we mean by this operation and the way that we control our forces here. I don't think there is any danger of a conflict between us and Syria, according to this operation.

[Ben-'Ami] And is there any possibility that troops may stay in this area permanently or that the security zone may be extended as a result of what's going on here now and of terrorist activity?

[Peled] Let's [word indistinct] the operation and where we shall be at the end of the operation. We will make, I hope, the right decision.

[Ben-'Ami] Are you in favor of extending the security zone?

[Peled] No, I'm not. I think that the security zone has proved itself, so I don't think that so far we need any kind of change in the security zone.

[Ben-'Ami] Despite, as you say, the increasing amount of terrorist activity and the number of terrorist gangs that are managing to reach the border?

[Peled] Despite everything that happened here, I don't think that we have to make it larger or wider. I think it proved itself.

[Ben-'Ami] Thank you. [end recording]

'Fatahland' Region Searched

TA0305115288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] In the Fatahland region on the slopes of Mount Hermon, the search operations conducted by the IDF with the help of the South Lebanese Army continue. Military sources, who spoke to our correspondent Karmela Menashe, emphasized that the operation is localized and that infantry units and several tanks are taking part.

The IDF spokesman emphasized that after the IDF completes the searches, the units will return to Israeli territory. The area being searched is unpopulated and the terrain is hilly and rocky.

The IDF wants to make sure that the area along the paths used by terrorists during their previous infiltrations is clear. The IDF is also trying to uncover a possible infrastructure of terrorists and weapons.

Another IDF unit is searching the outer fringes of the security strip near the villages of Mimis, 'Ayn 'Ata, and Al-Khulwah. These villages extended aid to the terrorists who had come from the north.

IDF Searches Continue 3 May

TA0305124488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] The UNIFIL headquarters has announced that the IDF has completed searches in Kafr Shuba and Kafr Hamam in the Fatahland, and has turned to the nearby villages of Rashayyah al-Fukhkhar.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht was told by the UNIFIL headquarters that in Kafr Shuba only two or three houses were searched. The soldiers informed the residents over loudspeakers that the action is aimed against terrorists and those who aid them, and asked them to see to it that their village does not turn into a terrorist base. In Kafr Hamam the soldiers gathered all the men into the square and gave them a similar message.

The UNIFIL headquarters has also reported that in the outskirts of Al-Habbariyah an incident was prevented between South Lebanese Army [SLA] soldiers—who accompanied the searching force—and soldiers from the UNIFIL Norwegian contingent.

The Norwegian soldiers prevented the SLA soldiers from passing through the roadblock. The IDF liaison officer intervened and asked the SLA soldiers not to be obstinate and thus prevented a violent incident.

A senior source in the Northern Command told our correspondent Karmela Menashe that the operation was part of the activity initiated by the command, and that it was being carried out at the present time because the conditions in the territory were right.

He particularly emphasized that the IDF soldiers are taking care not to harm the inhabitants in the areas being searched. Most of the residents are Druze, and many of them told the IDF soldiers that if the IDF strengthened them, there would be no terrorists in the area. The source added that several of the inhabitants are being interrogated.

Peres Comments on Raid

TA0305135088 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] The IDF soldiers are still engaged in searches for terrorists in southern Lebanon. The situation in the field is quiet, says Brigadier General David Agmon, the commander of the IDF Unit for Liaison with Lebanon, who is in the area.

[Begin Agmon recording] It is quiet and there have been no outstanding cases of collision or opposition. All our soldiers reached their points of destination according to plan.

The South Lebanese Army soldiers also entered some of the villages in the area north of Hasbayya. Everything appears to be quiet and it all seems to follow the plans to the dot. [end recording]

The IDF operation is southern Lebanon is a matter of days, perhaps even less, said Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

[Begin Peres recording] It is in the right proportions. There is no attempt here to go beyond what is necessary, the immediate needs, and the limited scope. I believe this is an operation carried out within the framework of the routine of preventing infiltration attempts into Israel. I do not think that it will last more than days, perhaps not even that. [end recording]

UNIFIL Reports Recent Action

TA0305153588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] The UNIFIL headquarters in southern Lebanon reported that about 1 and 1/2 hours ago the IDF soldiers left the area under the control of the Norwegian contingent in the eastern sector of southern Lebanon.

According to the report the soldiers searched the villages of Al-Habbariyah, Kafr Shuba, and Kafr Hamam. This afternoon the UNIFIL headquarters conveyed a report on the IDF searches to the UN secretary general in New York. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht was told that during the searches in this area there were no incidents with the local villagers.

Rabin: U.S, Syria Not Informed

TA0305152688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says the purpose of the operation in southern Lebanon is not to wipe out terrorist hide-outs, but rather to conduct searches and to warn the inhabitants of the area against cooperating with the PLO.

Minister Rabin told our correspondent Razi Barqay that our forces did not sustain any casualties and that no prisoners have been taken. Rabin, however, refused to answer whether any weapons were confiscated.

He added that the operation will be completed within a very short period of time, and that all the soldiers will return home. According to him it was not necessary to convey any message to Damascus because the area of the IDF's operation is far from the Syrian forces.

The United States was also not informed about it because the IDF is acting within the framework of Israeli policy.

Shamir Tells Mubarak of Desire To Renew Talks

TA0305093588 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir views the dialogue with Egyptian President Mubarak on the peace process as a first priority matter. In a message to Mubarak, the prime minister reiterates his opposition to the concept of an international conference, as well as his readiness to renew the autonomy talks at any time and to discuss the implementation of the Camp David Accords with President Mubarak.

The message from Jerusalem to Cairo further said that Israel is determined to restore calm and peace to Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, and that those who have been instigating the riots will achieve nothing through violence.

Our political affairs correspondent 'Oz Frankel notes that the message was relayed yesterday to Egypt via Egyptian Ambassador Basyuni, and is an answer to a message from Cairo received here at the beginning of this week, in which the Egyptian president urged the prime minister to embrace the idea of an international conference.

Shamir Supports Ending Tabah Arbitration Process

TA0305064688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir supports ending the arbitration process on Tabah, preferring this to a compromise. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami has learned that if disagreements emerge in the consultation which will be held by the prime minister, the foreign minister and the defense minister on the Tabah tomorrow, this matter will be brought to the Inner Cabinet for a discussion.

Senior Likud members last night leveled criticism at Alignment leaders, saying they have changed their mind. First the Alignment leaders supported arbitration and are now pushing for a compromise on the Tabah dispute.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 3 May reports that "Yosi Ben-Aharon, the director general of the prime minister's office says that Israel had all along wanted to achieve a compromise with Egypt, but Egypt had insisted on international arbitration. In the course of the arbitration Egypt ran into problems, including the discovery of two border stones which are incompatible with its version. As a result, the Egyptians began to lose their self-confidence and wanted to shift to a compromise. Still, according to their proposal, as brought by U.S. envoy Abraham Sofaer, Egypt will be granted sovereignty over Tabah, Egyptian laws will apply to this area, and the Egyptian police will be in charge there. Israel will be accorded partnership in managing the hotel. Mr Ben-Aharon defines this as an imaginary compromise in which Egypt gains almost everything."]

Peres Repeats Call To Hand Over Gaza to Jordan

TA0305142088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] Shim'on Peres has again called for handing over Gaza to Jordan, otherwise, sooner or later, we will be forced to grant Israeli citizenship to the inhabitants of the Gaza Strip. In a lecture in Jerusalem, the foreign minister said he objects to negotiations with the PLO, not because of the organization or its leaders' past, but because they want to establish a Palestinian state with an army equipped with Soviet weapons 100 meters from Jerusalem.

Hadassah Hospital Confirms Treatment of Iranians

TA0205142588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] Shmu'el Pinhas, the director of Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem, says that some staffers argue that family members of Ayatollah Khomeyni, as well as some residents of Arab countries which are hostile to the State of Israel, have been treated at the hospital. Pinhas made these remarks to President Herzog who visited Hadassah Hospital this morning.

Our correspondent Shula Schmerling notes that a Kuwaiti newspaper recently published that five Hadassah Hospital doctors had saved Khomeyni's life. Professor Feldman, director of the hospital's neurological ward, denied the report but added that dozens of Iranians had been treated in Hadassah Hospital since Ayatollah Khomeyni came to power in Iran.

According to that publication, a relative of Khomeyni was treated in the hospital's gynecological ward. The newspaper added that the hospital has treated patients from Syria, Iraq, Libya, Saudi Arabia, and Abu Dhabi. The paper also reported that the gynecological ward had helped construct an invitro fertilization unit in Jordan.

Spokeswoman Denies Report

TA0205180188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem is denying that its director today acknowledged that hospital doctors had operated on members of Ayatollah Khomeyni's family.

Hospital spokesperson Ruth Meckel told reporter David Ze'ev that during a tour this morning of the institute by President Herzog, Director Professor Shmu'el Pinhas only said he had heard of the stories. Earlier, reports had said he acknowledged the reports were true.

A Kuwaiti newspaper had said, among other things, that Hadassah doctors had saved the life of the ayatollah himself.

While denying that an official acknowledgement was made today, Hadassah officials refused, however, to reject the Kuwaiti stories.

Pressure to Invest in Lebanese Shi'ite Villages

TA0205144688 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 May 88 p 9

[Report by Re'uven Pedatzur]

[Text] In the past year, Iran invested some $100 million in Shi'ite villages north of the security zone. Most of the money was used to improve the living standards of the villagers.

The Iranian leadership decided to stress improving Islamic education for children of Shi'ite villagers. There is strong Iranian-Shi'ite indoctrination in the educational programs, which are influenced by the ayatollahs in Tehran.

In view of the Iranian financial investment, there is now pressure in Israel to invest in the civilian infrastructure of the Shi'ite villages inside the security zone.

The assumption is that the living standards of inhabitants under IDF control should be equal to that of those living north of the security zone.

The funds for the well-being of the security zone inhabitants will not come out of the defense budget, and therefore the Treasury has to agree to divert funds from budgets under its control.

Peres Addresses Knesset Opening Session 2 May

TA0205194388 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 May 88

[Address by Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres to the opening session of the Knesset summer session on 2 May—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] Mr Speaker, honorable Knesset:

The main objectives of Israel's foreign policy are to bring Israel and the entire region as close as possible to a full and stable peace and to move the region as far as possible from the danger of another war; to ensure that Israel remains the state of the Jewish people, the state of all its citizens, and that it will be able to preserve its distinctly democratic character; to improve Israel's international status and political, economic, cultural, scientific, and technological relations; to deepen the friendship with all peoples, and to advance the causes of peace, welfare, and justice in the world.

Our treatment of the peace issue does not involve the illusion that it is a simple issue, or that it can be solved overnight. Our treatment of the peace issue comes from a deep inner conviction that without a peace process the dangers will increase manyfold and will threaten both us and the Arabs.

The greatest of these dangers is losing hope for the prospects of peace. If Israel and its neighbors give up hope for peace then despair will be the leading political power, but in a negative direction.

Despair may bring about an accelerated arms race. Again new weapons will be created as though they can decide things. We are aware of the missiles flying between Tehran and Baghdad and the chemical weapons being cruelly used against a defenseless civilian population, as though these convey new tidings.

Despair can also cause a renewed polarization and mutual accusations, and efforts to recruit international support for one-sided positions. The outside world does not necessarily differentiate between the objective, which is solving the Palestinian problem, and the method, which is the use of rank terrorism. Such a position by the outside world will encourage that which it wants to prevent—greater violence.

Mr Speaker, I must tell the Jordanian Government and the Palestinians one thing clearly: The national unity government has consolidated its positions for the opening of negotiations, but it has also unanimously decided that it will give serious consideration to any proposal from the Jordanian side.

It can be assumed that every side will come to the negotiations with its own positions, and obviously there will be a gap, even a contradiction, between the positions of Israel and Jordan.

We need negotiations, however, not because we are in agreement, but because we want to overcome the differences which cause so many difficulties to the region's people.

Prime Minister's Antiterrorism Adviser Appointed

TA0205182488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] Colonel Yig'al Karmon has been appointed as the prime minister's adviser on antiterrorism. Karmon is an orientalist and belongs to the Intelligence Corps. He was formerly the prime minister's deputy adviser on antiterrorism, held senior positions in the Judaea and Samaria administration, and was in the past years instructor in the National Defense College.

Banned Newspaper Editor Remand Extended 8 Days

TA0205164588 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 2 May 88

[Excerpts] Ya'aqov Ben-Efrat, one of the editors of DEREKH HANITZOTZ [THE WAY OF THE SPARK], was today remanded in custody for 8 more days. Our correspondent Yasmin Qeyni reports:

In a closed session in Judge Sara Frisch' chambers in the Petah Tiqva Magistrate's Court, Ya'aqov Ben-Efrat was remanded in custody. For the first time since Ben-Efrat's detention, his attorney Muhammad Na'amni was present. A court order had prevented his presence earlier. [passage omitted]

It should be noted that according to the law, the police have only 13 days to compile a case against Ben-Efrat. If they do not, they will be obliged to request the attorney general's special permission both to indict him and to extend his period of detention. [passage omitted]

Fatah Member Sentenced to Life Imprisonment

TA0205201188 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1930 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] The Nabulus military court today handed a life sentence to Khalid Hasan Abu (Atib) from the Balatah refugee camp, who admitted to having been a Fatah member and to having murdered an inhabitant of the camp in December 1985.

The man murdered was suspected by the Fatah member of having cooperated with the authorities. Abu (Atib) also tried to murder another inhabitant of the camp in April 1986.

Abu (Atib) was helped by his brother and another person, who were both given 30-year sentences, 18 of which they will have to serve in prison.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Gazan Wounded by IDF Fire

TA0305063488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] A local youth was wounded at the Al-Shaja'iyah neighborhood in Gaza. A representative of the IDF spokesman in the area reported that the youth was severely wounded by a bullet in his stomach and was evacuated to the Barzilay Hospital in Ashqelon. The incident took place this morning, when youths tried to disrupt the exit of laborers for work in Israel.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that there are disturbances and incidents of stoning and burning of tires mainly in the town of Gaza. There is a general strike in the entire Gaza Strip, and few vehicles are seen moving in the streets.

Gaza Responds to Leaflet Call

TA0305121588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 3 May 88

[Excerpts] Judaea and Samaria have been quiet this morning, while a full general strike is being observed in the Gaza Strip. Riots occurring throughout the Strip included mainly stone throwing and tire burning.

This morning a young resident of Al-Shaja'iyah was shot, sustaining severe chest wounds. He was hospitalized in the Barzilay Hospital in Ashqelon. Moti Amir reports from Gaza:

[Begin recording] The residents of the Gaza Strip today responded to the local leaflets' call to commemorate the Al-Badr battle, one of Muhammad's victories over the infidels. A general strike is in force in the area, completely paralyzing the Gaza Strip.

The residents have also responded to the call to increase rioting. Numerous incidents of stone throwing and tire burning have been registered since morning. In the city of Gaza we witnessed several incidents in which the residents were requested by IDF soldiers to clear barricades and burning tires. [passage omitted].

An 18-year-old man was severely wounded in the chest this morning at the Musaqim junction. The shooting occurred when rioters tried to stop workers from leaving for jobs in Israel.

They hurled stones and burning objects at passing vehicles. IDF soldiers ordered them to stop, and subsequently opened fire according to procedures, wounding one of the rioters. He was evacuated to the Barzilay Hospital in Ashqelon. Nearby, Arab youths removed burning tires from the highway. [passage omitted]

It should be noted that besides this incident, no serious clashes with the security forces occurred in the city. Several Al-Shifa' Hospital physicians staged a 2-hour protest strike against the detention of Dr Zakariyya al-Ghara, the Gaza Strip Medical Association chairman, who had been placed under a 6-month administrative detention. [end recording]

2 Killed by IDF Gunshots 3 May

TA0305131788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] Two youths were killed by shots fired by IDF soldiers during a violent disturbance in the village of Bani Na'im, in the Hebron hills. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that an IDF squad was assailed by stones and forced to open fire.

Gaza Shops Allowed To Open

TA0205175988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 2 May 88

[Excerpts] The Civilian Administration in the Gaza Strip has announced that stores can now open at any hour for the remainder of the holy month of Ramadan. The move was explained as an attempt to encourage the normalization of life in the Gaza Strip. Steve Rodan reports:

The Civilian Administration continued its policy of the carrot and stick. The stick has already been displayed in the last few weeks with new regulations concerning the payment of taxes, customs, exit permits, and the closing of stores.

But the Civil Administration has now displayed a carrot. The head of the Civilian Administration, Brigadier General Arye Shifman, announced that stores in the Strip can be open at any day and at any hour. Stores that had been shut down by the army, can seek and obtain permission to reopen. [passage omitted]

Still, it is too soon to tell whether the carrot will produce any results. Businessmen express their fear of Arab youngsters throwing stones at their stores. Shifman's response: Let the army handle the problem. When we catch them, their parents can be slapped with a 5,000 shekel fine, a punishment they won't forget.

Gazans Try 'To Prevent' Unrest

TA0205193388 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 2 May 88

[Excerpt] A resident of the 'Ayn (Ridwan) refugee camp in the Gaza Strip was wounded from shots fired by IDF soldiers who were dispersing a riot today. Otherwise calm prevailed in the Gaza Strip today, the shops were open, and public transportation operated normally.

Our correspondent reports that the inhabitants are showing a desire to prevent an exacerbation of the situation. Attempts were even made to prevent youths from erecting roadblocks and throwing stones. [passage omitted]

Villages' Water, Power Cut

TA0205164288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 2 May 88

[Report by 'Eran Ben-Porat]

[Excerpt] Brigadier General Shay Erez, the head of the Judaea and Samaria Civilian Administration, today decided that the Arab towns and villages which have not settled their debts with water and electricity authorities despite repeated reminders, will soon be disconnected from these services.

The problem lies with 10 rural settlements, and Civilian Administration officials stress that for the time being, no similar action is planned against residents of large cities who have not paid their debts.

The measure is drastic, said sources in the Civilian Administration, but after the numerous reminders there was no other option.

Quiet prevailed in Judaea and Samaria today. The commercial strikes in most towns were conducted similarly to the Hebron, Ramallah, Nabulus, Janin, and Tulkarm strikes. The shops opened in the morning and closed between 1200 and 1400.

The majority of workers reported to work. Municipalities, government offices, and public transportation operated normally. [passage omitted]

Telephone Disconnection Appeal

TA0305125188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 3 May 88

[Excerpt] Two lawyers from the territories appealed to the high court this morning against the IDF commander in Judaea and Samaria. They asked that he rescind the orders to disconnect the telephone system in the territories from international dialing. [passage omitted]

13 Detained at Soccer Match

TA0305125488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] Thirteen residents from the village of Tamra were detained today for seven days in connection with their involvement in scuffles which broke out during a soccer game between Maccabi Tamra and a team from Bet She'an last Saturday.

Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that the judge noted that several of the supporters of the Tamra team were found in the possession of daggers, a thing which testifies they planned their action.

Two youths were detained in the village of 'Ein Mahil, near Nazareth. They are suspected of having hoisted the PLO flag on the local school.

Reserve Officer Imprisoned

TA0205192588 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] Gid'on Eshet, a reserve lieutenant, has been sentenced to 18 days in jail for refusing to serve in the territories. Our correspondent Menahem Hadar reports that seven more reserve soldiers who have refused to serve in the territories are currently under detention, and that since the beginning of the uprising 18 soldiers have been sentenced to jail terms for this violation.

Ansar-3 Prison To Expand

TA0205133588 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in Hebrew 2 May 88 p 2

[Report by Bradley Burston]

[Text] Qezi'ot—Ansar-3, the remote Negev prison camp holding Palestinians arrested for rioting in the territories, is to be expanded to nearly double its present capacity, sources at the camp said yesterday.

About 2,300 residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip are being held in the camp, which is located a short distance from the Egyptian border.

The projected cost of the expansion is NIS [new Israeli shekels] 4.5 million, NIS 500,000 more than it originally cost to convert it into a detention camp.

The massive facility now includes nearly 1,000 prisoners serving six months' administrative detention without trial.

Attorneys for the detainees recently took legal action to stop the authorities from transferring prisoners to the camp, saying that the transfer violated the Geneva Convention on the movement of "occupied peoples to the nation of the occupying power."

Civilian Administration lawyers rejected the claim, arguing that the term "occupation" as defined by the Geneva accords did not apply to the relationship between Israel and the territories.

Poll Shows Likud Election Victory Expected

TA0205113488 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 May 88 p 1

[Text] A greater number of people believe that the Likud will receive more votes than the Alignment in the elections and a greater number want this to be the case, according to the findings of a nationwide public opinion poll conducted by the PORI Institute for HA'ARETZ in the 3d week of April.

Some 39.8 percent of those polled believe that the Likud will receive more votes than the Alignment in the elections, compared with 21.2 percent who believe that the Alignment will get more votes than the Likud.

Some 36.8 percent also want the Likud to win the elections, compared with 33.8 percent who want the Alignment to win.

Some 21.1 percent believe that the two large parties will again win an equal number of votes in the elections, but it should be pointed out that only 4.3 percent want such a thing to happen.

Some 12.4 percent want neither a Likud- nor an Alignment-run government.

PORI Institute Director Rafa'el Gil, who conducted the survey, pointed out that 12.8 percent do not have a firm view on the coming elections.

The poll included a representative countrywide sample of 1,200 eligible Jewish male and female voters, age 18 and above, who were interviewed in their homes.

King Restates Position on PLO, Conference
JN021140 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 2 May 88

[Excerpts] Al-Balqa' Governorate—His Majesty King Husayn has praised the people of the Al-Balqa' Governorate and acknowledged their role in the building of modern Jordan.

His majesty recalled Jordan's achievements since the great Arab revolt in continuous and firm defense of the Arab nation's great issues, foremost of which is the Palestine question, and during which both Husayn ibn 'Ali and 'Abdallah ibn al-Husayn were martyred in its defense. They have not forfeited our Arab people's right.

In a speech delivered after the Iftar banquet hosted by his majesty at the Zayy resthouse last night for dignitaries of Al-Balqa' Governorate, his majesty praised Jordanian workers and all the good Jordanian citizens on the occasion of May Day, yesterday.

His majesty praised Iraq's steadfastness and defense of the Arab homeland. He also praised the Palestinian Arab people's uprising in the occupied Arab territories which is an example of the Arab citizen's steadfastness against challenges.

His majesty emphasized that Jordan is not a substitute for the Palestinian Arab people and will not negotiate on behalf of the PLO. Jordan, he said, will go to the international conference as a sovereign state according to its declared principles. These principles are mainly based on the unity of the Arab stand and the approval of the Arab parties concerned.

His majesty reiterated the national and pan-Arab priority of Jordanians to adhere to their country, Jordan, as a country for all the Arabs. [passage omitted]

His majesty stressed that no matter how difficult or bitter the circumstances are, this land is precious for its people and owners. The Arab citizen did not and will not weaken.

His majesty praised Iraq's steadfastness against the danger which not only threatens Iraq, but also threatens our sacred places and the Arab order. His majesty stressed that we in Jordan stand by our brothers in the great homeland. We work to achieve understanding, cooperation, reconciliation, accord, and the building of our strength.

His majesty also stressed Jordan's constant belief that a political solution of the issue cannot be achieved unless we have a large degree of power. This will reduce the enemies' designs against us and will make them realize that we are capable of confronting harm and aggression.

His majesty said: We stood on the side of our brothers in the Arab world in 1967 when the war was imposed on us. We were faithful to the pledge, the Arab League Charter, and the Joint Arab Defense Pact.

His majesty reiterated Jordan's firm and clear stand in support of convening an international conference, with the attendance and participation of the five permanent member states of the UN Security Council, on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 338 and 242.

The Palestinians must participate in the conference through the PLO. His majesty stressed that we in Jordan will not represent the Palestinians and will not deputize for the PLO at an international conference.

We stand at their side with all our power and resources. We will attend the international conference as an independent sovereign state.

His Majesty King Husayn clarified that if our kinfolk and brothers, the Palestinians, who are represented by the PLO, wish it, then we are ready to go to the conference in a joint delegation.

This means two delegations: a Palestinian delegation that will deal with the Palestinian dimension of the question and a Jordanian delegation that will deal with the Jordanian dimension of the question.

His majesty cautioned that this country and the Arab homeland are in real danger. This calls for maximum caution, alertness, and working for unity and cooperation to confront this danger. [passage omitted]

Royal Court Chief Visits Qatar, Delivers Message
JN301820 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Apr 88

[Text] Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani has received a message from His Majesty King Husayn. Royal Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim conveyed the message today.

The message deals with the current situation in the region, relations between the two fraternal countries, and His Majesty King Husayn's assessment of the current stage in the Arab arena.

The message is within the framework of the continuous consultations among Jordan and the fraternal Arab states proceeding from the need for Arab coordination, which is one of the pillars of Jordanian action.

Al-Qasim returned to Amman today from Doha.

USSR Friendship Society Board Elected

JN301013 Amman PETRA-JANA in Arabic 0909 GMT 30 Apr 88

[Text] Amman, 30 Apr (PETRA)—A new administrative committee for the Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society was elected yesterday. Elected as members were Senator Bahjat al-Talhuni, House of Representatives Speaker 'Akif al- Fayiz, Farid al-Sa'd, Dr Khalid al-Hamshawi, Mahmud al-Ma'ayitah, Walid al-Khayyat, Walid Mustafa, Eng Michel Masannat, and Dr Zuhayr Abu Faris.

Government To Heed Ceiling on Exports to Iraq

JN030915 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3 May 88 p 6

[By Salameh B. Ne'matt, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—The government and Jordanian exporters exchanged accusations Monday as each side blamed the other for a financial crisis that involves nearly $300 million in Jordanian exports to Iraq in excess of a $185 million ceiling allocated in a Jordanian-Iraqi trade protocol.

Industry and Trade Minister Hamdi al-Tabba' said his government "will not exceed the limits of the protocol" and that after paying out the $185 million through the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ), "everyone will have to pay for their own mistakes."

During a meeting with exporters held at the Amman Chamber of Industry, the minister said "I cannot believe that in one year we have been able to export $500 million to Iraq," hinting that a large part of these exports consisted of non-Jordanian products that were channelled into Iraq through Jordanian exporters, passing as Jordanian products.

Al-Tabba' said that a remaining $50 million out of the allocated $185 million will be paid to Jordanian exporters in accordance with a set of priorities that mostly favours Jordanian-manufactured exports.

CBJ Deputy Government Mahir Shukri, who attended the meeting, said the Central Bank could not afford to finance these excess exports. He did not offer any figures, but informed sources told the JORDAN TIMES the CBJ's free foreign reserves were currently at their lowest level ever. Shukri said the Central Bank was currently trying to assess the problem by summing up the value of opened letters of credit for Jordanian exporters.

Al-Tabba' said that ministry Secretary-General Mohammad al-Saqqaf held three days of talks in Iraq earlier last month and that other meetings will follow. He said the government "was concerned with finding a solution" to the problem.

He said, however, that the responsibility for the ongoing crisis "lies with the Iraqi side which allowed Iraqi importers to open letters of credit in excess of the agreement, without notifying the Jordanian side."

Al-Saqqaf told manufacturers that the situation reached this point because of sloppy supervision by the Iraqi Central Bank and Ministry of Trade.

He said that near the end of December 1987, the ministry noticed the excess in the value of letters of credit being opened and inquired from the Iraqis who answered that there was "an accurate supervision" carried out by the Iraqi authorities.

During his talks in Baghdad, Al-Saqqaf said, the Iraqis asked the Jordanian Government to raise the ceiling of exports to accommodate the excess demand. Al-Saqqaf said that "unfortunately, Jordan's capabilities could not offer such facilities" and that "there is no room for increasing imports from Iraq."

He said the Iraqis also recommended the cancellation of the export orders but that he refused because "this would destroy some of the Jordanian industries and is considered a catastrophe which we would not allow."

Following the talks, the Iraqi authorities issued instructions to the Iraqi Rafidain bank to refuse to accept export documents and guarantees. Al-Saqqaf added that another meeting with the Iraqi side will be taking place within one month "to determine where each side stands on the issue of opened letters of credit."

He added: "The government does not have any ready solution for the problem." Al-Saqqaf pointed out that the Iraqis proposed that Jordanian exporters finance their exports for 24 months to be paid after this period by the Rafidain Bank.

Shukri said the CBJ "does not consider this as a solution" and that "Jordan's situation does not allow for Jordanian exporters to offer 24-month facilities." He said the bank's foreign reserves could not afford to cover the excess exports.

Defending the CBJ for failing to alert Jordanian exporters about the value of exports exceeding the protocol allocations, Shukri said the CBJ does not supervise these letters of credit because the Iraqi side refused to allow Jordan to interfere. Speaking during the meeting chaired by Chamber of Industry President Khaldun Abu Hassan, several industrialists blamed "loose government controls" for the present crisis.

They said that the failure of the concerned authorities here to control Jordanian exports and to prevent exporters to reexport imported goods as Jordanian products was largely responsible for the great increase in the quota. Former Finance Minister Muhammad al-Dabbas said some Jordanian exporters were importing products,

then labelling them and forging certificates of origin to present these products as Jordanian-made. Al-Dabbas, who is an industrialist, said that such acts "have destroyed honest industrialists" and that the government "must take a firm and harsh stand" against violators of government export regulations.

Abu Hassan said the Chamber of Industry was looking into all possible means to settle the problem in cooperation with the government and that several options were under consideration. The president of the chamber had earlier hinted that the chamber's board may take initiative with the Iraqi authorities if such a move was approved by the government. More than 100 industrialists attended Monday's meeting.

AL-DUSTUR Comments on Iraqi Export 'Crisis'

JN031002 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
3 May 88 pp 18, 22

["I Heard and Saw" column by Muhammad Ibrahim Dawud: "The Crisis of Financing Exports"]

[Text] Despite the number of problems or crises we have suffered or are still facing, especially with regard to major issues related to vital sectors such as development and the national economy, the mistakes we still commit is in waiting until matters reach a critical stage to embark on late treatment, which is usually costly and of little use.

The current crisis resulting from suspending the financing of Jordanian exports to Iraq would not have reached the current stage if there had been a minimum level of the sound undertaking of responsibilities by the Central Bank or the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

Where were the competent quarters when all of the financial allocations were consumed in barely 3 months instead of 1 year? Why didn't they intervene when matters began to reach a delicate, critical stage? On the other hand, an explicit violation has been committed without any attempt by an official quarter to halt it from the beginning. This violation is the importation of some industrial commodities and then exporting them to Iraq on the basis that they are local products which have a share in the financial operation.

These questions do not only require answers, but also necessitate taking into consideration the concerned quarters, and knowing those responsible for allowing the exceeding of the annual allocations in the first 3 months of this year and for remaining silent about the exportation of products imported for local industries—a matter that affects the local market and financial allocations alike.

To be content with tackling the crisis and burdening the treaasury with additional expenses at the expense of the foreign currency reserves is not up to the required level and violates the national interest.

It is high time we linked the tackling and punishment of those responsible for any defects or errors. Tackling is aimed at containing the crisis and rectifying the error, while punishment is used to terminate laxity and inefficiency in shouldering responsibility in order to prevent the repetition of errors and crises.

In vital issues, especially in the economic field, no decision should be adopted without comprehensively studying the reality, future, and all possibilities. In addition, implementation should not be left for routine and formal procedures without reference to the set bases and principles, and making sure that any new step falls within the set framework and approved limits.

If a sound administrative approach had been followed, we would not have reached a crisis exposing many of the industrial establishments and companies to grave damage, and no foreign commodities would have been allowed to be imported to join our national industries in funds allocated for supporting them. This is in addition to competing with them in a market that is supposed to be for local production.

Reportage on Israeli Incursion Into South

2,000 Soldiers Cross Border

JN022037 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2018 GMT 2 May 88

[From the "Panorama" program]

[Text] An urgent report we received from Beirut a short time ago cites Lebanese police sources as saying about 2,000 Israeli soldiers this afternoon crossed the Israeli-Lebanese borders and penetrated deep into the Lebanese territory, especially in the Al-'Urqub area, in search of a number of Palestinian fighters. No further details are available.

Troops in Dahr al-Magharah

NC0305051888 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0542 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] Our correspondent in western Al-Biqa' reported a short while ago that Israeli forces landed troops by helicopters in the Dahr al-Magharah area, which is west of Al-Khalwah town, along the 'Ayn 'Ata Road, and in the (Bayadir al-Farrukhah) region at dawn today. The Israeli troops are arresting passersby.

Troops Advance to 'Ayn 'Ata

NC0305080388 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0720 GMT 3 May 88

[Excerpts] The main item on the news is the Israeli operation in the South, which began at 2200 last night and is still continuing.

According to the latest reports, Israeli troops are currently engaged in artillery shelling of the hills and woods in 'Ayn 'Ata, Al-Khulwah, Al-Kufayr, Mimis, 'Ayn Hirshah, and (Wadi Ja'nam).

These areas are outside the security zone, near the Al-Biqa' region. It seems Israeli troops have advanced beyond the security strip, because 'Ayn 'Ata, for example, is 10-15 km from the security strip.

In the meantime, Israeli helicopters are searching the area. The Israelis are using incendiary devices and machineguns and fires are reported in the area. [passage omitted]

Timor Goksel, UNIFIL spokesman in the South, earlier denied monitoring any extraordinary Israeli movements in the region during the night. Yet at dawn today, he asserted that approximately 1,500 Israeli soldiers supported by tanks are taking part in the operation. [passage omitted]

[Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic at 0740 GMT on 3 May adds: "Israeli troops and their agent South Lebanese Army militiamen have advanced 10 km beyond the security region. They surrounded 'Ayn 'Ata and Libbaya in western Al-Biqa', on the eastern slope of Mount Hermon. It is known that Syrian-controlled areas are within the aforementioned region."]

Curfew Imposed on Villages

NC0305091788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] Israeli forces and a South Lebanese Army [SLA] force have crossed the security zone and advanced approximately 10 km beyond it, reaching the villages of Libbaya and 'Ayn 'Ata in the district of Rashayya al-Wadi. They have surrounded the two villages, erected barriers at their entrances, cut off the roads leading to them, and imposed a curfew.

According to information from western Al-Biqa', the Israeli forces have imposed a curfew on the villages of Al-Kafir, Al-Khalwah, Mimis, and 'Ayn Qinya, even though they have not yet entered them.

Soldiers Search Villages

NC0305093788 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] Security sources have informed AFP that Israeli enemy forces launched search operations this morning in three villages located in the security zone, which the enemy has established in the South, and arrested a number of villagers.

The sources emphasized that Israeli enemy units have started a systematic search in the villages of Kafr Shuba, Shab'a, and Al-Habbariyah in the Al-'Urqub area. The sources added that Israeli occupation forces have arrested an unspecified number of inhabitants.

According to a military spokesman in occupied Jerusalem, Israeli units began search operations in the security zone and neighboring areas last night to expel resistance members and to make the inhabitants undersand they will pay a price if they help the resistance. Between 1,000 and 1,500 Israeli soldiers supported by 8 to 10 tanks are engaged in this operation.

Syrian Troops on Alert

NC0305103488 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 3 May 88

[Excerpt] REUTER cites security sources close to Syria as saying that Syrian troops in Western Al-Biqa' have declared a maximum state of alert. This follows the crossing by Israeli and SLA soldiers of the security zone to the western slopes of Mount Hermon and Al-'Urqub in search of Palestinians. [passage omitted]

Units Advancing on Al-Kufayr

NC0305103588 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] According to the latest reports from the Rashayya area, mechanized units of the occupation forces and their agents are advancing on the Al-Kufayr al-Zayt-'Ayn 'Ata axis.

These reports add that three Israeli helicopters are flying over and combing the hills of (Jan'um) up to the town of 'Ayn Hirshah. Landing operations on the hills in the area were monitored a short time ago.

A force supported by 10 tanks has entered the town of Mimis under cover of artillery shelling and incendiary shells fired by Israeli helicopters.

This wide-scale aggression has been accompanied by flights by Israeli warplanes over the South, western Al-Biqa', and the mountain. The Israeli forces also have entered the town of Al-Kufayr.

PLA, Lahd in Clashes

NC0305112588 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] Violent clashes involving the use of various types of weapons have been raging since this morning between the positions held by the Popular Liberation Army and those held by the Lahd militia on the Kafr Falus, Lib'a, and 'Ayn al-Mir combat lines.

Shells have fallen beyond the combat lines on residential areas in Majdalun and Al-Salihiyah, but no casualties have been reported. The violent clashes are continuing.

A responsible military source in the Nasirite Popular Organization has made a statement accusing agent Lahd's militia of escalating the military situation on the Kafr Falus combat line for the 2d consecutive day and of shelling residential areas between Sidon and Al-Salihiyah.

The source said that the Zionist-Lahd escalation is clearly the result of the tour which Uri Lubrani, coordinator of Israeli activities, had paid to the Jazzin area.

This visit coincided with the campaign of arrests and the sieges on and attacks against the villages of the security zone—matters that require greater caution and awareness of the enemy's plans and an escalation of the resistance and confrontation operations from Kafr Falus up to the border strip.

Withdrawal From UNIFIL Area

NC0305151588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1504 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] Timor Goksel, UNIFIL's official spokesman, announced a short while ago that the Israeli occupation forces withdrew from the Norwegian contingent's operational area in the eastern sector at 1530 [1330 GMT] today.

Goksel added that the Israeli forces left behind only a field hospital which they had set up in Kawkaba.

Government To Lodge Complaint Against Israel

NC0305153288 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] Lebanon has decided to lodge an urgent complaint with the UN Security Council against the new Israeli aggression on a number of towns and villages in the border area.

Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss telephoned Ambassador Rashid Fakhuri, Lebanon's permanent representative to the United Nations, at 1430 today, and gave him the necessary instructions regarding the complaint. Dr al-Huss asked Ambassador Fakhuri to start contacts immediately for the sake of holding a Security Council meeting.

Fighting Continues at Shatila Refugee Camp

10 Killed in Clashes

NC0205115588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] Clashes involving the use of heavy- and light-caliber weapons are continuing in Shatila camp. Preliminary reports indicate that 10 persons have been killed and 50 others wounded.

Cease-Fire Announced

NC0205174088 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 May 88

[Excerpts] The national Lebanese and Palestinian efforts have produced a cease-fire agreement in the Shatila camp following this morning's meeting at the residence of 'Asim Qansuh, regional secretary of the Ba'th Party Organization in Lebanon.

According to the latest security report, total calm has prevailed in the camp since 1315 [1115 GMT], the time when the cease-fire was declared. [passage omitted]

Fatah—the Uprising said 3 people had been killed and 15 others wounded, while DFLP sources said 2 had been killed and 20 others wounded. However, PFLP sources said 3 people had been killed and 35 others wounded and AFP cited Palestinian sources as saying 8 were killed and 43 wounded in the clashes.

It has been learned that the Lebanese nationalist parties and Palestinian factions will hold a meeting at the residence of PSP Political Bureau member Akram Shuhayyib at 2000 [1800 GMT] today.

Fighting Resumes

NC0205194588 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] Rocket and machinegun clashes have been taking place between 'Arafat supporters and dissidents in the areas of Al-'Annan, Zayn al-Din, 'Abd al-Nasir Street, and the Palace Movie House inside Burj al-Barajinah since 2000 [1800 GMT] tonight. Similar clashes took place in Shatila earlier today.

Negotiations on French Hostages Reportedly Fail

JN022029 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 1 May 88 p 1

[Text] Beirut—A Lebanese security source has disclosed to AL-ITTIHAD that negotiations to release two French hostages have completely failed. He said the kidnappers have informed French authorities through certain channels the hostages will not be released in the near future.

The source denied the French elections have any connection with the failure of the negotiations, pointing out that several demands, some of which have connection with the nature of developments in the Arabian Gulf region, were made by the kidnappers and that the rejection of these demands by the French negotiators has suspended the negotiations and led to the cancellation of the preliminary agreement to release the two hostages.

Kidnapped Maronite Monsignor Found Dead 1 May

Body Found in Forest

NC0105173888 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 1 May 88

[Text] Monsignor Albert Khuraysh is dead. A hunter found his body today in the Dayr Mar Antonius Khushbayh forests near Ghazir. He immediately contacted clergymen in Ghazir, who informed Bkirki and the competent security authorities. Msgr Khuraysh, newphew of Cardinal Mar Antonius Butrus Khuraysh, was kidnapped last week in mysterious circumstances.

Forces Denounce Killing

NC0205112488 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] An official source of the Lebanese Forces has stated the following: The Lebanese Forces strongly denounce and regret the criminal assassination of Monsignor Albert Khuraysh. The Lebanese Forces condemn the use of such methods which are designed to foster doubts and confusion in the hearts and consciences of the citizens against spiritual figures.

They also extend their warmest condolences to the Maronite Patriarchate and Cardinal Mar Antonius Butrus Khuraysh.

Lebanese Forces Implicated

NC0205160388 (Clanestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] Informed sources in the eastern part of Beirut have said that the kidnapping of Monsignor Albert Khuraysh was carried out by the Lebanese Forces' security service, led by Ghassan Tuma.

The same sources added that the kidnapping followed a stormy meeting between Samir Ja'ja' and Patriarch Sfayr, where they discussed differences between the patriarchate and the Lebanese Forces regarding the presidential elections and the ongoing contacts to resolve the Lebanese crisis.

The sources maintained that the abduction of a religious symbol close to Bkirki is a clear message from the Lebanese Forces to the patriarchate.

AL-SIYASAH on Al-Asad-'Arafat Talks

JN300905 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic
27 Apr 88 pp 1, 21

[From Shakir al-Jawhari in Damascus]

[Text] AL-SIYASAH has obtained details of the meeting held between President Hafiz al-Asad and Yasir 'Arafat and which was attended by a number of Palestinian officials. The following is a summary of what took place in the meeting:

1. It was agreed that the Lebanese card will be handed over to Syria.

2. An agreement was reached on forming a joint Arab delegation to the proposed international conference for peace in the Middle East.

3. Syria agreed on establishing an independent Palestinian state under PLO leadership.

At the beginning of the meeting and after exchanging kisses with 'Arafat, the president paid tribute to the late martyr Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], his personal traits and character, his role in the Palestinian revolution and in confronting the Zionist enemy, and the great loss resulting from his absence.

The president then spoke about the uprising and its importance. He hailed the Palestinian people's struggle under occupation and said that supporting the uprising is now the primary task of joint Arab action.

Speaking about the joint tasks of Syria and the Palestinian revolution, the president touched on the Shultz initiative and said that Shultz' main task was to abort the uprising.

He noted that the Israeli position becomes more intransigent when Shultz visits the region. He also spoke about the new political program of the Israeli Labor Party led by Shim'on Peres and said that he discussed this program in a telephone conversation with Jordan's King Husayn.

He added that he warned the king that the Israeli occupation program says no to withdrawal from the River Jordan, no to dismantling settlements, no to the partition of Jerusalem, no to an independent Palestinian state, and no to the PLO.

President al-Asad reiterated Syria's rejection of Shultz' plans and maneuvers.

The president stressed the importance of unifying the Arab position through the upcoming Arab summit conference to mobilize Arab resources and stands with the aim of confronting Shultz' plot and escalating the uprising.

The longest discussion during the Al-Asad-'Arafat meeting was devoted to the international peace conference. In this regard, the president stressed and the Palestinian delegation concurred that in order to hold an international peace conferfence with Arab specifications, the uprising and a unified Arab position must be maintained.

In this respect, it was agreed to convene an international conference with full powers attended by all sides, including the PLO on an equal footing within a joint Arab delegation.

The aim of the conference is to realize Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and to establish the Palestinian people's rights to return, to self-determination, and to the establishment of an independent state under PLO leadership.

At this point, President Hafiz al-Asad censured Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf and told him: Abu Iyad, [Salah Khalaf] in a statement to Monte Carlo radio you said that the PLO stands were identical with my stands, particularly my recent statements following George Shultz' visit. Why did you use the word particularly? Our stands have always been identical in confronting U.S. schemes.

Abu Iyad agreed with the president's observation. Discussion then touched on the importance of a joint Arab stand in order to compose the joint Arab delegation.

Here, it is possible for observers to realize that the Syrian-Palestinian rapprochement does not constitute an anti-Jordan axis.

Observers also noted that President Hafiz al-Asad held a telephone conversation with King Husayn before he met with 'Arafat and a Fatah Central Committee delegation.

The Fatah Central Committee also decided to send Umm Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir's widow Intisar al-Wazir] and Fatah Central Committee members Salim al-Za'nun and Rafiq al-Natshah to Jordan to receive condolences on Abu Jihad's death, a step which certainly has political ramifications.

Speaking on the importance of a joint Arab stand, the president stressed the need for earnest preparations for the upcoming Arab summit.

Differences which have marred Palestinian-Syrian relations were also discussed. President al-Asad talked about the 1982 war and the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. He said: Syria made efforts and supported the confrontation of the Israeli invasion.

Al-Asad spoke in detail about the Syrian role, smartly refuting previous accusations that Syria left the Palestinian Revolution Forces to confront the Zionist invasion alone.

The president concluded by saying that both the PLO and Syria plunged into Lebanon. He affirmed that 'Arafat and his accompanying delegation that the camps' war has ended and that Syria is concerned about the Palestinians' security and safety in Lebanon. However he said that there is no way to return to the pre-1982 situation.

'Arafat said: The basic issue is the protection of our people's security in Lebanon and Lebanon's domestic issues will be solved by the Lebanese with fraternal Syria's assistance.

President al-Asad denied that he mixes the personal with the political. He gave an example of his personal relationship with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. He said personal relations linked him with Mubarak when they both worked together in the Air Force of the United Arab Republic, which consisted of Egypt and Syria.

He also touched on his meeting with Mubarak during the ICO summit in Kuwait. However, he said that personal relations cannot impose themselves on political relations between Syria and Egypt. He said that he cannot restore political relations with Egypt as long as it adheres to the Camp David accords.

President al-Asad expressed his support for the independence of Palestinian decisionmaking. He said: You have the right to study things and present your viewpoints. However he noted that this is the right of the two sides as each side is independent in decisionmaking.

Al-Asad continued: Syria's logical trend is pan-Arab but the prevailing logic in the Arab world is parochial. He asked: Why should we deprive the Palestinians alone among all the Arabs of their right to parochial thinking? Therefore, he affirmed his support for establishing an independent Palestinian state.

President al-Asad addressed the members of the Fatah Central Committee by saying: Yasir 'Arafat is the only person who left Syria in accordance with a decision and returned to it in accordance with a contrary decision. Why did you leave Syria and follow him?

He added that in the past he was following up many matters by himself, but now many matters are left for the various government departments to decide. He added that although he made the decision on reconciliation with the PLO, the practical steps on the path of reconciliation will be discussed by the various government departments in accordance with their powers. He reassured the Palestinian delegation that the final decision is his personal decision.

On this basis, it was decided that the Syrian and Palestinian sides will continue meetings to follow up the implementation of the procedural measures to achieve reconciliation.

These steps aim at reaching an agreement on the strategic and political headlines for the coming move; discussing the PLO presence in Syria and the freedom of movement from and to Syria; entrenching the new relationship; and removing all obstacles to this new relationship.

Within this framework, a meeting was held yesterday between Qaddumi and Khaddam. Yasir 'Arafat attended part of this meeting which aimed at reconciliation with Khaddam, who did not attend the meeting with the president which was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

Thus, a new chapter in the book of Palestinian-Syrian relations was opened. We can say that the title of this chapter is the confrontation of the U.S. plots in the region.

'Arafat told the president that the Soviet-supported united Palestinian-Syrian stand can turn the U.S. equations in the region upside-down. The most important point is that the Syrian president did not pause at any past difference between the two sides.

Prospects for 'Upcoming' Shultz Tour Assessed

JN301412 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Apr 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz intends to visit the Middle East again to pursue discussions about the U.S. Administration's proposals, which he presented to certain sides in a document called a memorandum of understanding, according to informed U.S. sources.

What we know of his previous visits and talks does not provide any basis for talking about the elements or beginnings of success. As he himself said on more than one occasion, nobody said yes to the U.S. proposals and nobody said no.

Those who did not say yes did not necessarily have to say no, especially since Shultz and his administration considered their proposals ideas for discussion that might be amended or changed in light of talks and counterproposals.

The failure to say yes implies that these proposals, ideas, and concepts did not meet with what the parties concerned had expected and did not form an acceptable plan.

Shultz' statements following his talks with the various sides to the dispute implied a recognition that the U.S. proposals did not meet with a positive response, did not constitute a factor of polarization, and did not open the door for a positive development toward convening an international peace conference in the Middle East.

And despite all the adverse reactions to the U.S. moves, which came following the growing popular uprising against the Israeli occupation of Arab territories, the

U.S. Administration continues to cling to the claim that it is working for peace and trying to push forward the so-called Middle East peace process.

The misuse of the words "peace" and "peace process" by the U.S. Administration and Israel is not a novelty for them. Even the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon was named "peace for Galilee."

The Camp David agreements, which ruined the peace efforts in the region, deepened and complicated differences and shed rivers of blood, were also called a peace process. Indeed, they claimed that these agreements were the peace itself.

The U.S. Administration's moves, as its term draws to a close, may be designed, among other things, to withstand pressure from U.S. public opinion, which has been scandalized by the Israeli leaders' crimes and the brutality of their tactics and fascism of their racism, and create the illusion that Israel—the spoiled child of the U.S. Administration that has been lavishly given all the means to pursue aggression, occupation, and crime—is not receiving unstinted support for its practices in the occupied land.

But no one will buy the idea that the United States is unhappy with these practices, as it would not have increased military assistance to Israel and encouraged criminal actions against civilians in the occupied land, exercised its veto against the UN Security Council's denunciation of the criminals, or supplied the occupiers with a new consignment of most advanced U.S. fighter aircraft.

When Shultz arrives in the region, the question arises: What does he want? They say in Washington that they seek peace and want to bring the disputing parties around the conference table for internationally supervised negotiations.

But is there anything in the U.S. proposals and ideas that could produce peace? Shultz declared in Israel that he supports Israel's famous noes— namely, no to the PLO, no to the Palestinian state, and no to an Israeli military withdrawal to pre-1967 lines.

These three noes simply mean that the United States rejects the principle of the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people and a total Israeli pullout from the occupied Arab territory. So what the will the negotiations be about?

If Israel, supported by the United States, refuses to evacuate the conquered territory or recognize the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people, what will the U.S.-proposed negotiations be about?

Will they be about giving Arab and international legitimacy to Israel's occupation of Arab land, or giving Israel an Arab and international cover to carry on with the process of annihilating the Palestinian Arab people, making them homeless, and swallowing up their homeland? The Arabs, spearheaded by Syria, have refused to submit to these two demands when they were weak.

Can they be expected to accept them after all the developments witnessed by the region, more particularly the courageous uprising that has entered its 6th month and brought in new facts that not even an imbecile or blind politician can overlook?

Syria, which wants a fair, comprehensive peace and rejects separate, partial deals and giving the United States or any other power trusteeship over the issue of the region, has expressed through its leader, President Hafiz al-Asad, the foundations on which a real, just, comprehensive peace can be built on four points:

First, an authoritative international conference; second, a total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab land; third, full, national rights of the Palestinian Arab people; and fourth, a joint Arab delegation to the international conference including the PLO.

Whoever wants to know Syria's stand on Shultz' ideas enshrined in the memorandum of understanding he brought to the region must compare Syria's four points to Shultz' proposals.

In any case, Syria never bargains away land or Arab rights. It will keep raising the banner of liberating the occupied Arab land and securing the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

Afghanistan

Rebels Propose Paktia as Interim Government Site

BK0305111188 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 24 Apr 88 p 1

[Text] Peshawar, April 23: Three mujahidin delegations, each of 14 members, left for Afghanistan Saturday to locate a place for the establishment of the interim government.

Meanwhile, Peshawar-based mujahidin news agency has predicted that the proposed interim government of Islamic Unity of Afghan Mujahidin (IUAM) would be established in the Jaji area of Paktia Province bordering Pakistan.

The Al-Bunyan news services reported that Jaji area, which was a major mujahidin stronghold, was one of the places under study where the mujahidin interim government would be headquartered.

It argued that Kabul regime's control in the area is confined to the Jaji cantonment only while the surrounding terrain is controlled by Afghan mujahidin.

The agency quoted Engineer Ahmad Shah, head of the mujahidin interim government, as saying that portfolios of his 14-member cabinet had been okayed.

He felt the chosen ministers were senior activists of the component parties of the seven-party alliance and had taken active part in the "jihad".

He informed that his cabinet will meet every Saturday in Peshawar to discuss developments.

Meanwhile, according to an IUAM press release, the second meeting of the cabinet of the interim mujahidin government was convened with Engineer Ahmad Shah president of the government in the chair.

Dr. Zabihullah Mujaddedi along with other members of the mujahidin cabinet attended the meeting lasting from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Several decisions with regard to practical establishment of the government were taken. The secretariat of the interim government disclosed that three delegations each 14 members under the leadership of Muhammad Yasir Matiullah and Esma'il Sidiqi respectively left Saturday for Afghanistan to locate a place for the establishment of the government.

Zahir Shah on Current Situation, Possible Return

LD0305112788 Hamburg DPA in German 0916 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] Munich [no date as received] (DPA)—Afghanistan will stick to the traditional policy of neutrality because of its geographical position, the king of Afghanistan, who was deposed in 1973 stated in an interview for the magazine QUICK prereleased today.

The country will maintain goodneighborly relations with all countries bordering it, including the Soviet Union, Zahir Shah, who lives in exile in Italy, said.

In response to the question as to whether civil war might break out after the withdrawal of the Soviet troops, the ex-monarch said according to QUICK: "I do not think there will be a bloodbath."

There would certainly be clashes but only isolated ones. The basic condition for this would be noninterference by foreign powers. Everyone in Afghanistan is tired of the war.

The major powers in world politics have probably "learnt their lesson." The Geneva agreement has cost much effort. Stability in Afghanistan will continue to demand great efforts from the outside world.

"And let us not forget the economic dilemma of 9 years of war," Zahir Shah warned. Thousands of villages have been destroyed and agriculture has been brought to its knees. "We will not do it alone," he added.

On the question as to whether he would now return home, he replied that every Afghan patriot had this wish. "It has become stronger in me since I knew how much my people value me."

The date of his return does not depend on him. Various developments might occur. For this reason the time is not yet ripe to talk of his return and the circumstances accompanying it. He also cannot say what role he might play in the country's future.

"The problem does not lie in any apportioning of power or personal claims. We do not want to take up from the past. The point is to find a political solution acceptable to the majority of the Afghan people," he stressed.

The Afghan head of state and party Najibullah has called on the ex-king to participate in national reconciliation and to play a "unifying role" in forming a coalition government.

Najibullah Receives USSR Academy Graduates
LD021846 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] In the presidential headquarters at Delkosha Palace today, Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, received recent graduates of military and political academies of the Soviet Union.

BIA reports that Esteemed Najibullah, addressing graduate officers, said: You return to the country at a time when the people and the armed forces welcome national reconciliation, the National Assembly elections, and the Geneva agreements.

The tasks of the Armed Forces—especially you youths, who return to the country with new and great knowledge as the limited contingents of the Soviet Union are due to return to their peace-loving country—to maintain the reliable defense of the country, our territorial integrity, and our country's independence take on new dimensions.

Esteemed Najibullah added: It is your duty to consolidate relations between the armed forces and the masses of the people and change the armed forces into the reliable trench of the defense of the revolution's achievements, the people, and the country.

During the meeting one of the graduates assured Esteemed Najibullah that they are ready to discharge their duties with all their energy and strength to totally implement the policy of national reconciliation and the Geneva agreements and the enhancement of war preparations for the defense of the country. Brigadier General Muhammad Rafi', minister of defense; Major General 'Abdul Haq 'Ulomi, incumbent of the army section of the PDPA; and Zabihullah Ziarmal, president of political affairs of the Armed Forces, were present.

Najibullah Meets With Investors, Businessmen
LD021906 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 2 May 88

[Excerpts] At presidential headquarters this afternoon Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, received a number of investors in the private sector and national businessmen. He presented medals of the 10th anniversary of the April Revolution to a number of them.

BIA reports that Esteemed Najibullah in his address to them said: Accelerating the rhythm of economic development in the country in general is connected with reliable and honest cooperation and the establishment of mutually beneficial ties between the state and private sector.

It is fully understandable that the state defends, protects, and assists the activities of the national businessmen and private investors and ensures the security of their assets.

Esteemed Najibullah added: The party and state are taking measures to remove the obstacles that blocked extensive activities by private investors and to expand the mutually beneficial relations between the state and private sector.

In the near future, a nationwide conference for the businessmen of our country will be held with the participation of worthy representatives of the private sector. There will be invitations to representatives of foreign firms and companies that have economic ties with us.

BIA adds that Esteemed Najibullah presented medals of the 10th anniversary of the April Revolution to a number of national businessmen and private investors. He wished them further success in strengthening the country's national economy. [passage omitted]

During this meeting 'Abdul Zohur Razmjo, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; Sayyed 'Amanuddin Amin, first deputy prime minister; Muhammad Khan Jalalar, minister of commerce; and Burhanuddin Ghaisi, deputy head of the economic section of the PDPA Central Committee, were also present.

Aviation Minister Welcomes Soviet Official
LD021910 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] A. Chilingarov, deputy chairman of the Soviet State Committee for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Control, arrived in Kabul today for official talks concerning a protocol (?on long-term) assistance by the friendly Soviet Union.

The delegation was welcomed at Kabul International Airport by Muhammad 'Aziz Negahban, the civil aviation minister; the deputy minister and head of hydrometeorology; and the councillor at the Soviet Embassy in Kabul.

Kawiani Holds Talks With PRK Delegation
LD300609 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT
30 Apr 88

[Text] Kabul, April 29, BAKHTAR—The Kampuchean delegation headed by Tie Banh, member of the Central Committee of People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of transport and communications met with Najmuddin Kawiani, Politburo member and secretary of the PDPA CC.

Najmuddin Kawiani briefed the Kampuchean delegation about the gains of the policy of national reconciliation in Afghanistan and the recently concluded Geneva accords.

He expressed the support of the party and people of Afghanistan to the process of national reconciliation going on successfully in Kampuchea.

Reciprocally, the Kampuchean side on behalf of the government and people of Kampuchea voiced their support to the policy of national reconciliation under way in Afghanistan and to the Geneva accords and described them as a great success of the people of Afghanistan.

The sides expressed satisfaction over the existing relations between the two countries and hoped for its expansion.

Visiting Communist Delegations Depart for Home

LD300559 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 30 Apr 88

[Text] Kabul, April 29, BAKHTAR—A number of top-level delegations of friendly countries left Kabul for their home countries after participation in the tenth anniversary of the April Revolution.

The departed delegations were from the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Poland, Cuba, GDR, Hungary and Yemen.

The delegations were seen off at Kabul International Airport by high-ranking party and government officials.

Briefs

Private Sector Projects

Kabul, April 30, BAKHTAR—Forty seven projects in the private sector of the Afghan economy have started functions in the capital and provinces of the country during last Afghan year due to facilities provided by the state of the Republic of Afghanistan, a representative of Department for Encouragement and Development of Private Investments said to our reporter during an interview. The projects have started functions in the fields of light industries and foodstuffs, chemicals, plastic, metallurgy, carpentry, tailoring and non-alcoholic beverages. The projects provided job opportunities for one thousand two hundred workers. The projects are exempted from custom duties for five years. Their machineries and raw materials are imported with the assistance of the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, the representative added. [Text] [*LD012336 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 1 May 88*]

Communications Improvements

Kabul, April 30, BAKHTAR—Six hundred and sixty million afghanis were obtained through communication services during last Afghan year (ended 20 March 1988) showing a ten per cent growth compared with the figures available for the previous year, a representative of the Ministry of Communications said in an interview with our reporter. During that period the automatic telephone apparatuses increased from twenty eight thousand and six hundred lines to thirty thousand and one hundred lines and the wireless apparatuses increased from two hundred thirty five to two hundred fifty six sets, the representative said. Television transmission networks were installed and became operative in Baghlan, Konduz, Jowzjan and Nimruz Provinces as well. [Excerpt] [*LD012341 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 1 May 88*]

Literacy Campaign Successes

Kabul, April 30, BAKHTAR—Over five hundred thousand literacy learners graduated from the literacy courses throughout the country during last Afghan year (ended 20 March 1988), a representative of Literacy Department said in an interview with our reporter. In the process of nation-wide literacy campaign in the country, twenty six thousand nine hundred and forty three literacy courses have so far been established. Two thousand nine hundred and thirty five volunteer teachers instruct the courses, the representative said. One hundred seventy five thousand people learned literacy in six thousand fifty six literacy courses in Kabul last year, the representative added. During the said period, over nine hundred thousand books and copy books were distributed to the members of the literacy courses free of charge, the representative stressed. Four hundred and eighty thousand persons will be admitted to literacy courses, throughout the country, this year, the representative noted. [Text] [*LD012333 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 1 May 88*]

Bangladesh

13 Killed by Shanti Bahini Insurgents 1 May

BK0305125888 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] In the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh, 13 people, including 5 women and 3 children, were killed and 8 injured in the latest massacre carried out by the so-called armed Shanti Bahini [Army of Peace] men in 2 villages of Khagrachari District last Sunday.

Official sources said in Chittagong Monday that this was the third massacre by the so-called Shanti Bahini in the past 1 week. In the latest incident, they attacked the sleeping people of Mahangipara and shot dead eight persons and injured eight others.

They also set fire to five houses. So-called Shanti Bahini men attacked a house at Kumaripara and killed all the five members of the family. They burned the house into ashes. The sources say a number of cattle head were also burned alive in the massacre.

Intellectuals Call Present Parliament 'Invalid'
BK0105120988 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 25 Apr 88 pp 1, 8

[Text] Twenty prominent personalities including former Chief Justice, three former Vice-Chancellors, two Inspectors General of Police, University Professors, poets and journalists in a joint statement on Sunday termed the present parliament as invalid as it does not not enjoy moral rights or trust of the people.

They said the Government's attempt to amend the Constitution or pass various bills through this unrepresentative parliament will not receive necessary sanction of the people.

The signatories to the statement expressed their total support to the current mass movement aimed at establishing a representative government in the country.

The text of the statement is as follows:

The people of Bangladesh have clearly rejected the election to the national parliament held on March 3, 1988. It is true that a national parliament has now been constituted through a farcical election, but this parliament is invalid and does not enjoy moral rights or trust of the people.

The government's attempt to amend the constitution or pass various bills through this unrepresentative national assembly will not receive the necessary sanction of the people.

The people of Bangladesh have unequivocally expressed their lack of confidence in the present Government through the rejection of the election held on third March.

The farcical election has highlighted the unrepresentative character of the present government all over the world. It is now abundantly clear that the present government which lacks the confidence of the people is continuing to govern the country with foreign aid and support and from the confines of the cantonments.

But history teaches us that in the last analysis no unrepresentative government can survive only with the help and support of foreign donors. We wish to state clearly that the responsibility of the autocratic rule by the present Government will also devolve on all those who are supporting the present illegitimate government.

The political, the economic and the administrative crisis which has been mounting during the rule of the present Government is deepening due to the absence of a representative government.

The country has been engulfed in corruption and indiscipline and all institutions indispensable for democratic rule are being destroyed. The value of human life itself is being rendered unimportant. The question of state religion has been raised to confuse the people.

Government Lifts Ban on BBC Operations
BK0305093688 Hong Kong AFP in English 0932 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] Dhaka, May 3 (AFP)—Bangladesh has lifted a ban on the operations of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), the government announced Tuesday.

Information Minister Mahbubur Rahman announced the decision to reporters following a meeting here Monday with BBC official William Crowly.

The BBC was ordered to close its operations in Bangladesh on December 14 and BBC correspondent Phil Jones was expelled.

At the time, the government said the ban on the BBC was "in the national interest, in view of continuing hostile and tendentious propaganda by that organisation despite repeated protests."

The local BBC correspondent, Ataus Samad, was also detained for two weeks under the Special Powers Act.

India

Foreign Secretary Menon To Visit Pakistan 3 May
BK0205161088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] The foreign secretary, Mr K.P.S. Menon, is going to Islamabad tomorrow for a day's visit as the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi's special emissary.

Mr Menon is likely to call on the Pakistan president, General Ziaul Haq, and the prime minister, Mr Junejo, besides holding talks with the Pakistan foreign secretary, Mr Abdus Sattar.

An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that the visit is primarily a follow up of India's proposal for consultations with Pakistan on the Afghan issue. It may be recalled that India had suggested a visit by the foreign secretary on 1 March, but Pakistan had not agreed to the date on the grounds that its minister of state for foreign affairs and foreign secretary will be away in Geneva. The home secretaries of the two countries are also scheduled to meet next week.

Afghanistan's Najibullah To Arrive 4 May
BK0305124688 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] The president of Afghanistan, Dr Najibullah, is arriving in New Delhi tomorrow on a 3-day official visit to India. He is visiting India at the invitation of the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi.

During his stay in the capital, Dr Najibullah will have two rounds of talks with the prime minister, Mr Gandhi.

Vice President Departs for Port of Spain 30 Apr
BK3004071488 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0630 GMT 30 Apr 88

[Text] The vice president has left New Delhi for Port of Spain on the first leg of his 3-nation tour to Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, and Suriname. Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma visits Trinidad and Tobago from the 1st to 4th, Guyana from 4th to 8th, and Suriname from 8th to the 10th of next month.

A high-powered delegation, including six members of parliament and senior officials, is accompanying the vice president.

In Guyana, Dr Sharma will take part in the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the arrival of Indians there. Fifty-three percent of the population of Guyana comprises people of Indian origin.

New Army Chief Sharma Takes Command 1 May
BK3004160288 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 30 Apr 88

[Text] General V.N. Sharma will take over as the new chief of Army staff tomorrow. A ceremonial send off was given to retiring chief, General K. Sunderji, today.

Janata Party President Reportedly To Resign
BK0205032588 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] The Janata Party president, Mr Chandrashekhar, is reported to have decided to step down. According to UNI, he conveyed the decision formally in letters to senior party leaders. When asked about it by newsmen, Mr Chandrashekhar refused to comment.

Reports also say that Mr Ajit Singh, at present working president of the party, will look after the work till a new president is elected. Mr Chandrashekhar has been the party's president since 1977.

Fence, 'Other Obstacles' Built on Punjab Border
BK2904135988 Hong Kong AFP in English
1230 GMT 29 Apr 88

[By Akhil Gautam]

[Text] Khemkaran, on the Indo-Pakistan border, April 29 (AFP)—Hectic activity is underway on the Indian side of the Indo-Pakistani frontier here in a bid to check the infiltration of Sikh separatists allegedly trained in Pakistan.

Vijiendar Singh Sarohi, deputy inspector general of the elite paramilitary Border Security Force (BSF), took Indian and foreign reporters on a tour of a 100-kilometer (62-mile) stretch of the Indian side of the frontier this week.

His aim was to prove an Indian claim of active Pakistani complicity in stoking Sikh separatism in the northern Indian State of Punjab, which shares a 553-kilometer (343-mile) border with Pakistan.

More than 780 people have been killed in Punjab since the beginning of the year in violence related to the Sikh campaign for an independent homeland called Khalistan (land of the pure).

Mr. Sarohi took reporters to the sites of gunbattles between BSF troops and Pakistani rangers in an effort to prove that Pakistani border guards were providing fire-cover to Sikh militants crossing into India.

India has begun to erect a wire fence and various other obstacles along the frontier to make crossing the border more difficult.

But BSF Inspector General Prakash Singh says it would be impossible to "seal" the border. "It's a misnomer to call it sealing. Despite having the best possible gadgets, the United States has not succeeded in sealing its border with Mexico," he said.

New Delhi has already issued security forces with night vision devices, searchlights and sniperscopes to try and halt clandestine traffic on the Indo-Pakistan border near the holy Sikh city of Amritsar.

The 100 or so kilometers (62 miles) of wire fencing are about 100 meters (328 feet) inside the Indian side of the border, Mr. Sarohi said.

Gates would be erected across the barricade to allow farmers to reach their land, he said, adding that the fence would make it easier to catch intruders.

Mr. Sahori said the intruders were not "ordinary smugglers." "Earlier we used to face 12-bore fire from petty smugglers. But now the bursts of Chinese-made AK-47 assault rifles have made us sit up over the past two months or so and devise new strategies," he said.

Indian officials are working overtime on the installation of the 10-foot (three-meter) high, four-foot (1.2 meter) wide fence, a task they figure will be completed in the next two months.

Reporters inspecting the barrier felt—and in one case proved—that it would not be impossible to cross, and Mr. Sarohi ruled out mining the fence because of the danger to farmers and their cattle.

The 10,000 residents of Khemkaran, occupied by Pakistan during the 1965 border war, were helping the BSF, Mr. Sarohi said.

He said that six encounters with Sikh militants in the past two months had revealed a new pattern. While the militants tried to cross, Pakistani rangers fired from different directions, in effect providing covering fire.

Mr. Singh, who is in charge of policing the Punjab border, charged that Pakistan is running training camps for Sikh militants in Narowal, Kasur, Abottabad, Lahore, the Chnaga Manga forests and Multan.

"The number of militants under training at each of these camps is in three figures if not four," he said, adding that a couple of thousand militants could be waiting to enter India "at the appropriate time."

Mr. Singh declined to answer when asked if India and Pakistan could be headed for war over alleged Pakistani support for Sikh militants.

Islamabad's arming and training of Sikh militants had of late become "blatant and more conspicuous," he said. "Now it is hitting us in the eyes," he added.

Dhaka Charge of Airspace Violation Denied

BK3004034688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Apr 88

[Text] The Indian High Commission in Dhaka has categorically denied any violation of Bangladesh airspace by any Indian aircraft. In a press release issued yesterday, the high commission said the Bangladesh Government has been informed accordingly after a thorough investigation.

The high commission's denial comes in the wake of Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Mr Nazrul Islam expressing concern at a press conference on Thursday over the alleged violation of their airspace.

Regretting the unfortunate killings in the Chittagong Hills Tracts, the high commission deplored the attempt to implicate India in the incident which, it said, is entirely an internal problem of Bangladesh.

Pakistan Purchase of UK Warships Noted

BK0105132388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 1 May 88

[Text] Pakistan has set up a joint defense committee with Britain for the purchase of latest warships and new weapons system for its Navy. According to UNI, the agreement was reached during the recent visit to Islamabad by the British minister of state for defense production [title as heard], Lord Trefgarne.

Pakistan is also negotiating with Britain for refitting its former Royal Navy missile destroyer. A British naval team recently visited Pakistan and chalked out a refit program for the destroyer. This will enable the ship to carry Sea King antisubmarine helicopters.

Buta Singh Seeks Extension of President's Rule

BK0205163088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, today moved a statutory resolution in the Lok Sabha seeking extension of president's rule in Punjab for another 6 months.

He said the continued terrorist violence in the state requires a firm administration with the state and central governments working in total coordination. The Constitution's 59th amendment provides for extending the president's rule in the state, which is to expire on the 10th of this month.

He said the governor had sent a report to the president expressing the view that the determination and devotion now noticed in the fight against terrorism will be greatly reduced if elections are ordered now.

The governor also said the morale of the police and paramilitary forces is high and they are determine to act firmly. This is reflected by the recent recoveries of large number of sophisticated weapons and ammunition.

The home minister said according to the report the increase in the killing of civilians and terrorist activities is mainly due to the illegal intrusion of trained terrorists and smugglers with sophisticated arms into Punjab from Pakistan.

The governor is of the view that Pakistan is behind the encounters which have taken place near our border areas between the BSF [Border Security Force] and armed intruders. He also mentioned that a number of centers have been set up by Pakistan for training terrorists.

The home minister said it is against this background that continuance of president's rule in Punjab is proposed.

During the inconclusive discussion, opposition members said there is no tenable ground for extending president's rule, while the treasury benches said this will help strengthen the efforts to fight terrorism.

Violence Continues; Death Toll Rises in Punjab

Police Kill 3 Terrorists

BK0105033288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 1 May 88

[Text] In Punjab, three terrorists were killed in two separate encounters with police last night. In Kapurthala District, a police naka [patrol] party was fired upon when it challenged four suspicious looking persons near village Bhagana.

Two of them were killed when the police returned the fire. The other two managed to escape. A large quantity of arms and ammunition has been recovered from their possession.

In Ludhiana District, a police patrol party was fired upon by three terrorists near village Dada. In the exchange of firing which followed one of the terrorists was killed, while the other two managed to escape.

An official spokesman said in Chandigarh that about 85 intruders from Pakistan have been killed and over 2,000 apprehended by the Border Security Force during the last 4 months. Over 2 crore rupees worth of contraband and arms and ammunition have been recovered from their possession.

6 'Terrorists' Killed

BK0105075888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 1 May 88

[Text] In Punjab, six terrorists, including a self-styled area commander of a terrorist outfit, have been killed in separate encounters with the police. Three persons were gunned down by terrorists in the state.

A CPI-M worker was shot dead in Amritsar District, while a woman and her daughter were killed in Gurdaspur District.

April Death Toll Reaches 28

BK0205091688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] A delayed report from Punjab says a group of terrorists who ambushed a Himachal Road Transport Corporation bus near Lalru early this morning later shot dead a railway gang man near the Dapper railway station on the Ambala-Chandigarh section. A farmer was killed in the exchange of fire between police and some terrorists in Kapurthala District last night.

In Chandigarh, two car-borne terrorists shot at and seriously injured a person this morning. The victim identified as Maninder Singh Pannu, a former political secretary of the late Punjab chief minister, Mr Partap Singh Kairon, was admitted in the hospital and reported to be out of danger.

Addressing a news conference in Chandigarh today, the director general of Punjab police, Mr K.P.S. Gill, said that 27 terrorists were killed and 212 arrested during last month. Over 264 sophisticated weapons, including 69 Chinese assault rifles, 8 rocket launchers, and 16 rockets besides a large quantity of ammunition, have been recovered.

Mr Gill said the terrorists gunned down 228 persons, including 10 policemen, during the same period.

'Terrorists' Kill 5

BK0305031188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] In Punjab, five persons were shot dead in terrorist violence last night. An unspecified number of terrorists entered a house in village Karadwala in Bhatinda District and shot dead the house owner, his wife, and two sons. In another incident, some terrorists gunned down a farmer in village Kamalu.

In Amritsar District, some terrorists tried to ambush a police party in Patti area last evening. They, however, fled when the police party returned the fire. No casualty has been reported.

Paper Assails Carlucci on Pakistan Arms Deals

BK2904150088 Calcutta ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA in Bengali 8 Apr 88 p 4

[Editorial: "The Gentleman Adheres To His Words"]

[Text] Frank Carlucci, the U. S. defense secretary, paid a 3-day visit to India on the eve of his tour of Pakistan. In New Delhi, he held talks with a number of people apart from Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Defense Minister K.C. Pant.

Therefore, it may be assumed that they exchanged views on many serious and important issues, regardless of the outcome. After all, Mr Carlucci was a guest and the defense secretary of a powerful country, the United States.

Is it not a matter of great happiness that he obliged us with his visit to this country? However, there was nothing new in his statement to a group of enthusiastic newsmen before he left India for Pakistan.

He could have said these things in his own country. There was no need to come to this country, undergoing such a tiring journey, and wasting all this time just to make this statement.

Of course, one can say that there is a special significance in making these remarks while in New Delhi. That the issue was very controversial was known to both Mr Carlucci and the newsmen asking him the questions.

The U.S. defense secretary categorically stated that America will not stop supplying arms to Pakistan. This aid will continue even after the resolution of the Afghan issue or the withdrawal of Soviet troops.

This policy is based on the existence of a U.S. military cooperation agreement with Pakistan and on a desire to support a friendly government in Islamabad. U.S. interests are involved in both cases—indeed, an easily comprehensible statement rendered in categorical terms. In no way did Mr Carlucci attempt to keep anyone in the dark by using ambiguous words.

The United States has long been pursuing a policy of providing both economic aid and arms to Pakistan. In exchange, Pakistan has given overt and covert facilities to the U.S. Government.

India could also amass arms from the United States if it wished. However, the insistence that it will not allow its name to be associated with a military pact and the "unethical" declaration that it will remain committed to the Nonaligned Movement have pushed New Delhi away from Washington.

John Foster Dulles made no less efforts to make Jawahar Lal Nehru understand this reality. However, India remained adamant and kept herself away, while Pakistan opened its arms and made itself available to the United States. Why does India want to forget this fact today?

It is a fact that the arms received by Pakistan from the United states on the plea of putting a check on communism have been well utilized in the past against India.

It is also true that the continued assurance given by the United States to India in this regard was practically ignored. However, what could Washington do but give assurances?

It has to tolerate Pakistan's nagging requests and stubborn behavior in its own interests. Spying through satellites has become so common a method that there is no need for policing others from the bases of a friendly country.

Yet, due to military reasons, one cannot resist the temptation of grabbing bases in different regions. Pakistan is gladly providing this facility to the United States.

Who faced danger as a result of Soviet intervention in Afghanistan is a separate question. However, it provided a golden opportunity to Pakistan and its mentor, the United States.

An excuse was found for the uninterrupted flow of U.S. economic assistance and arms to Pakistan. A prompt answer could be given if asked by India or anyone else that the reason was to check Soviet expansion. Who was going to check?

Why, Pakistan! And who else? That was the plea that had been utilized so far. But Mikhail Gorbachev suddenly created trouble by announcing the withdrawal of his country's forces from Afghanistan.

Frank Carlucci took the step in the very beginning to remove the obstacles [to supplying arms to Pakistan]. He categorically said that arms aid to Pakistan does not depend on the presence of Soviet forces in Afghanistan.

Arms supplies to Pakistan will continue; this is the official policy line. He added that the friendly government in Islamabad will continue to receive aid. What he did not explain—there was no need to explain either as it was evident—is whether it is a matter of concern if the government in Islamabad is democratic or military.

Washington will not feel perturbed even if that government wants to produce a nuclear weapon, violating all agreements. Of course, Mr Carlucci has once again assured India that Pakistan presents no danger to her. What can America do now if India is still afraid?

U.S. Attack on Iranian Oil Platforms Criticized

BK0205105288 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 20 Apr 88 p 11

[Editorial: "A Rash Action"]

[Text] The attack on two Iranian oil platforms by United States warships near the Straits of Hormuz on Monday would appear to be more than an act of reprisal; it was a show of force to compel Tehran to buy peace on other people's terms.

Quite apart from trying to scare Iran, the US attack may have the effect of escalating the Gulf war to a new pitch. US Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci has threatened that the door for further US action had been left open, saying this would depend upon the Iranians.

What this means is that Washington would not hesitate to repeat its blows until Tehran has been cowed down. It is a little intriguing as to why the US should have chosen the first day of the Muslim month of fasting, Ramadan, to launch a major military operation.

The religious fervour may actually make for a more vehement reaction among the Iranians than otherwise. Considering this, and the critical response from the Soviets, the US move could prove counter-productive.

When the Super Powers and some Western countries sent their navies into the Gulf last year, ostensibly to ensure freedom of navigation, the danger of Iranian mine attack had almost been invited by them.

Last year also the US had destroyed an Iranian oil platform for similar reasons. Reactions to the latest US attack have been muted. The Soviet Union, however, has warned the US against any repetition of its action.

Happily, even US Congress, though it has publicly welcomed the move, has quietly cautioned the Administration against getting unwittingly involved in the Gulf war.

What is needed is a fresh boost to the peace process. The US should re-examine the Soviet proposal that foreign navies should withdraw, leaving the policing of the Gulf to the UN naval force.

The unacceptance of this proposal has caused the Soviet Union's foot-dragging over imposition of an arms embargo on Iran for refusing to abide by a mandatory Security Council resolution calling for a ceasefire and withdrawal of both Iranian and Iraqi forces to pre-war boundaries.

China's stance on the arms embargo and on stopping further sales of Silkworm missiles to Iran is also unclear. Iran has been losing ground in the Muslim world as the deliberations of the Organisation of Islamic Conference, held recently in Amman, made clear.

For the OIC not only refused to take cognisance of the proven resort to chemical warfare by Iraq but backed Saudi Arabia's plan to limit the number of hajj pilgrims this year—after last year's Mecca tragedy—a move obviously directed against Iran.

In the land war also Iran has not been doing well and a certain war-weariness is said to be growing in the country. This appears to be the time for renewing peace efforts and to get the UN mediatory process activated. Washington should not flex its muscles to a point where its Marines may win, but neither the two Gulf combatants nor peace.

Contractor of Jammu Children's Hospital Indicted

BK0305031988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the police have registered a criminal case against the contractor for the collapse of the government children's hospital building. Three engineers have been suspended.

A judicial inquiry will be conducted by the retired high court judge, Mr I.K. Kotwal. The state government has announced an ex gratia payment of 5,000 rupees for the next of kin for each of those killed and 2,000 rupees each for those who have received major injuries.

At least 14 persons were killed and 23 injured when a portion of the hospital building collapsed yesterday. The rescue and relief operations are continuing.

The ONGC [Oil and Natural Gas Commission] has donated 1 lakh rupees to the chief minister's relief fund in the wake of the tragedy.

Briefs

ADB Loan for Telecommunications

The Asian Development Bank has approved a $135 million loan to India to improve telecommunications facilities in the country. The loan to be paid back within 24 years is to meet the entire foreign exchange component of the $247 million telecommunications project. Under the project digital facilities will be provided to a number of telephone exchanges to modernize them. Earth satellite stations will also be set up at some places. [Text] [*BK2704100188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Apr 88*]

Iran

Saudi Police Attack Consulate in Jeddah

LD0305165388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] The Central News Unit, quoting informed sources in our country's Foreign Ministry, announced: Following the declaration on severing diplomatic ties between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Al Sa'ud regime by the rulers of Hijaz, this afternoon Saudi police and security forces barbarically attacked the Iranian consulate in Jeddah.

Contrary to international norms and conventions and before the end of the time allocated to the Iranian employees for leaving Hijaz, they took all these employees out of the consulate in an inhuman manner and have taken them to an undisclosed location.

We remind you that the Islamic Republic of Iran dispatched an aircraft to Jeddah and Riyadh in order to evacuate embassy and consular personnel from Hijaz.

Majlis Speaker Addresses War Support Marchers

LD0305135188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] The remarks of the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council at a gathering of thousands of workers and members of the coordination council of Islamic associations of the country's banks from all over the country, is the first news report for this hour, to which I draw your attention:

Continuing the people's response to an invitation from the Supreme Council for War Support, this morning thousands of workers and members of the coordination council of Islamic associations of the country's banks, after a glorious march through the streets of Tehran, gathered in front of the Majlis.

Chanting the slogans of "War, war, until victory," "Death to America," and "Death to Israel," they declared their readiness to go to the battlefronts of the

war of light against darkness to assist the selfless warriors of Islam. Moreover, they demonstrated their hatred for the new U.S. move in the Persian Gulf and U.S. agents in the region.

At this gathering, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the Majlis speaker and the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council, gave a speech paying tribute to the hezbollahi ummah of Iran and the audience.

He said: The interesting point for the world and our own people to realize is the fact that we are facing bullying and aggressive moves by those states which pledged at the United Nations to support right and justice and international regulations, and they are led by the United States.

We strongly blame the United Nations and the Security Council for not performing their duty at these sensitive junctures. And although all of them confirm in their private talks that the Iraqi Zionist regime is the aggressor and warmonger, they refrain from expressing a simple opinion in public, condemning the aggressor.

Referring to the crimes of the Iraqi Zionist regime in Halabjah, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: A tragedy such as Halabjah would be sufficient to make any person respond, even those most indifferent to international regulations and sacrosanct rights.

However, despite the fact that a government has massacred its own people in a barbaric and savage manner—something that almost all the international mass media admitted—we see the United Nations, the Security Council, and such major powers as the United States and others, remaining silent.

He added: When one side explicitly says it is going to continue its atrocities in the Persian Gulf, and Iran responds by saying it will only carry out retaliatory measures to the extent of deterring the enemy, these states, that is, the United States and others, arrive in the region in such numbers that they give open support to the aggressor and tie down the hands of the justice-seeking and security-seeking side.

Continuing his remarks, Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the West's claim of seeking security as baseless, and said: If you are telling the truth, really want security in the Persian Gulf and the region, then the way is clear. We cannot accept that Iraq is not listening to you.

Referring to the point that Iran's deterrent operations in the tanker war are only directed against those who have taken part in the war, that is, those who have placed their territory, ports, money, intelligence, and airspace at the disposal of Iraq, Hashemi-Rafsanjani addressed the United States: Your servants in the Persian Gulf are supporting Iraq.

If the Croesuses of the Persian Gulf stopped aiding Iraq and stopped the sale of over 150,000 barrels of oil from the neutral zone on Iraq's behalf daily, and if you warned Iraq that if mischief continues in the Persian Gulf then you would not place the port of 'Aqaba—which is akin to being your exclusive zone—at the disposal of Iraq, then there would be no more insecurity in the Persian Gulf.

Continuing his remarks, Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the U.S. claim of neutral ships being attacked by Iran as baseless, and said: When you mention neutral ships in your new policies, is it because you intend to clear your conscience?

Are Kuwait and the Hijaz truly neutral in the imposed war? And do you really not know that your AWACS in Hijaz are at the disposal of the agressor, as is Bubiyan Island off Kuwait?

He stressed: You, the United States, are a partner to these deeds and these deeds are carried out in the Persian Gulf at your behest. If the nation of Iran had to submit to your acts of extortion, it would never have started a revolution and would not have succeeded in throwing you and your servants out like garbage.

Concluding his remarks, the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council said: The Islamic Republic of Iran has announced again and again that if Iraq were to stop its mischievous deeds in the Persian Gulf, we would maintain security there and there would be no need for any security force in the Persian Gulf. We are prepared to restore security there at our own expense.

Oil Minister Returns, Comments on OPEC Session

NC0305092088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] On his return from the OPEC consultative session, Mr Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, minister of petroleum, expressed optimism on future OPEC talks on the reduction of production ceilings.

He said: Iran's efforts were aimed at preventing, as far as possible, a deepening of the rift between the two OPEC groups which held conflicting views on the reduction of production ceilings.

He said: This was merely a consultative session and decisions on OPEC performance are usually made at the annual OPEC meetings. The next session will take place on 8 June.

The oil minister continued: This was the first time that non-OPEC producers had presented definite proposals for defending oil prices in the market in cooperation with and in support of OPEC.

He added: All the members agreed that oil production ceilings should be lowered, but there were two different opinions on how much. Mr Aqazadeh stressed: The

interference by the Hijaz King Fahd was the reason why the consultative session was unable to reach a final consensus on the reduction of production ceilings.

At the OPEC consultative session, four countries, namely the Hijaz, the UAE, Qatar, and Kuwait, demanded that OPEC's production be reduced by 182,000 barrels per day.

Eight countries—Iran, Venezuela, Nigeria, Indonesia, Algeria, Libya, Gabon, and Ecuador—were in the majority in calling for OPEC production ceilings to be reduced by 300,000 barrels per day; that is, by an average of 5 percent of OPEC's total production.

The oil minister said: Before the next session is convened, OPEC's talks with non-OPEC producers will continue so that the views of the two groups can be reconciled in order to achieve a definite and final consensus.

In conclusion, he expressed the hope that all OPEC members will, in the next session, be able to reach an overall agreement on cooperation with non-OPEC producers for lowering production levels.

Velayati Receives Cuban Counterpart's Message

LD011407 Tehran IRNA in English 1320 GMT 1 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 1, IRNA—Cuban ambassador to Tehran Isidoro E. Contreras Perez met with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here today and conveyed a verbal message from his Cuban counterpart Isidoro Malmierca.

The Cuban foreign minister in his message has expressed concern over the U.S. decision for closing down PLO offices in the United Nations. Malmeirca also calls for coordination of progressive and anti-imperialist countries to counter the U.S.' unauthorised influence on the United Nations.

Mohtashemi Questions Tehran Election Results

PM021107 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 20 Apr 88 p 2

[Interview with Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi by unidentified correspondent on Majlis election results; date, place not given]

[Text] The minister of interior started the interview by speaking about the manner in which the first round of the elections was held.

He said: The Ministry of Interior did everything in its power to hold the elections for the third Majlis. Thank God, our good and brave people throughout the country staged the best and most healthy elections despite the many dangers threatening them from the Zionist Iraqi enemy. They came to the polling stations and cast their votes, which showed their dignity and their poltiical growth.

Throughout the country we were ready to handle any situation and, by providing a secure atmosphere at 30,000 polling stations, we provided the opportunity for the people to vote for whomever they wanted.

It was because of this security that a healthy round of elections was held. In some cities the elections will to a second round. This includes Tehran.

The minister then answered our correspondent's question on why the Council of Guardians has so far failed to verify the election results despite the fact that 1 week has passed since they were held.

The minister replied: We were in touch with the Council of Guardians during this time we were preparing for the elections. We tried to respect the legal rights of all the organizations involved, with the Council of Guardians heading the list.

He added: Our understanding was that the law was clear on all issues and that no body or organization would want more than it was legally allowed. Through all the stages in the Tehran election, an effort was made to attract the best forces, both in the executive bodies and in terms of those supervising the polling stations. We tried to create a situation where the overseers did nothing at all to influence the people on how they should cast their votes. Anywhere where there was a report that this principle had not been observed, it was dealt with forcefully.

The people of Tehran were the best witnesses to this as they cast 1.6 million votes. Now those people who came and cast their votes are still waiting and wondering why the results of their elections have not yet been announced.

We had more than 2,600 ballot boxes in Tehran. The votes in those boxes have been counted in accordance with the law and in a very organized manner and the counts noted and recorded.

The Tehran elections supervisory committee has the duty to oversee all the boxes and, in areas where there may be a problem, they recount the votes—again in accordance with specific laws and regulations. The gentlemen in the Tehran supervisory committee are claiming that they have the right to open, recount, or declare void any box, at any time, for any reason. These gentlemen believe that the boxes in question have to be under their jurisdiction alone, and that is where we differ.

What we want to ask these gentlemen of the supervisory committee is why they want to recount those boxes in secret, away from the eyes of the executive officials, when the boxes have been counted by the executive officials in the presence of members of the Council of Guardians.

The minister of the interior added: In Tehran there are 300 boxes that must be counted again. We are not against this. All we are saying is that this must be done in accordance with the law.

Throughout the entire elections, right up until now, we have unfortunately seen the Tehran supervisory committee has taken a certain side, contrary to the views of the imam and quite against the law which underlines its neutrality. Its members have exerted all their efforts on the side of a certain faction, employing their legal rights on the committee as their weapon.

They want to make up for some of the loss suffered by that one faction which did gain must in the first round, and did not get much of the people's support. They want to manipulate the situation in order to make up for this loss, but unfortunately, it must be acknowleged that this request by the supervisory committee is quite against the law, the traditions of elections, and the wishes and the orders of the imam.

The law respects, more than anything else, the people's vote. Those chosen by the people must enter the Majlis. If an organization or body which has legal rights tries to declare the people's perfectly valid votes null and void so that a certain movement can make some gains against the law, this should be considered treason against Islam, the revolution, and the blood of the martyrs. It brings the heroic actions of the people into question, something that cannot be forgiven.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashami said: The Tehran supervisory committee has started to make some efforts in this area. It has written many letters to officials trying to disrupt public opinion.

If it has something to say, then it should address the Ministry of Interior. It is doing all these things without informing the Ministry of Interior, which was in charge of holding the elections.

The Tehran supervisory committee wants to declare 300 ballot boxes void in order to prepare the groundwork to enable some people who did not appear on the list, who are from a specific faction, to make it to the second round.

The minister of interior stressed: We have reminded them of their legal rights many times and we have talked to them and advised them to remain within their own legal limits.

However, most regrettably, this is not how they have acted. They are not even capable of keeping this illegal wish of theirs secret. In the telexes they have sent, they have specifically mentioned their wishes, and this is again something that we regret.

At this time I will read you the text of a telex No 539 dated 15 April 1988, sent by the head of the supervisory committee: "...Of course, this will be made clear after the recounting of the boxes to be declared void according to the law, and there will be some changes to the list announced unofficially before."

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashami then talked about the positive aspects of this election and said: I repeat that these elections were the best and the most healthy under the present circumstances. The forces mobilized in this regard were the best mix of teachers, students, tradesmen, and those trusted citizens well known in their neighborhood for being honest and clean.

The minister of the interior then commented on the opposition of the head of the central supervisory committee to the timing of the second round of elections. He said: This gentleman has disagreed with the timing of the second round. I must tell him with regret that he is not aware of the letters that have been exchanged between the Ministry of the Interior and the Council of Guardians.

We have designated all the times, charts, and so forth of the entire election, both for the first and second rounds and also for the Council of Experts. The Council of Guardians has formally accepted and has announced its intention to cooperate. Unfortunately, the gentleman of the supervisory committee has issued a letter which contradicts the authority above him, which is the Council of Guardians.

The minister of the interior concluded: We believe that the Council of Guardians is the best source to safeguard the people's legitimate votes and rights. They should not allow some people to carry out overt illegal acts in their name. We believe that the spirit of the council deplores the direction taken by some members of the supervisory committee, which has been undertaken in favor of a specific faction.

We have designated Friday, 13 May 1988, which is Jerusalem Day, the day of the Iranian people's solidarity with the people of Palestine, for the second round of the elections, and this has been accepted by the Council of Guardians. How can these other people take this golden opportunity out of the people's hands?

God willing, we shall all carry out our duties on the correct path within the bounds of the law.

Supreme Judicial Council Deputy President Named
LD021707 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] During this afternoon's session of the Supreme Judicial Council, Mr Hasan Habibi, minister of justice, was appointed deputy president of the Supreme Judicial Council and given responsibility for areas within the responsibility of the Supreme Judicial Council according to law, such as overseeing all administrative and financial affairs, personnel, services, and police surgeon, as well as the implementation of all responsibilities stemming from Articles 52 and 53 of the Public Accounts Law.

Islamic Group Condemns Break With Riyadh
LD301405 Tehran IRNA in English 1357 GMT 30 Apr 88

[Text] Beirut, April 30, IRNA—Organization for the Islamic Revolution in Jazirat al-Arab (Arabian Peninsula) released a statement here today, condemning the Riyadh regime's unilateral severance of ties with the Islamic Republic as a bid to sow discord among Muslims.

The statement said, the Hijaz regime's decision to break relations with Islamic Iran was in line with the recent U.S. naval attack on Iranian oil platforms in the Persian Gulf and Washington's direct involvement in the Baghdad regime's attack on Al-Faw peninsula.

UN Report on Iraq's Use of Chemicals Criticized
NC3004090088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 30 Apr 88

[Commentary by the Central News Unit research group: "Acquitting the Iraqi Regime Will Lead to the Expansion of Saddam's Crimes"]

[Text] One month after the chemical bombing of Halabjah and the massacre of more than 5,000 civilians in this area, a report was finally prepared by a delegation from the United Nations.

This report was published at a time when the U.S. State Department shamelessly refused to react clearly against the incredible crime perpetrated by the Saddamists. They also tried, in one way or another, to accuse Iran of also having used chemical weapons.

Moreover, as a result of the Iraqi regime's encountering increasing international condemnation and the Security Council's increasing pressure, representatives of governments such as those in France and the United States once again overtly opposed the Security Council's clear reaction against the Iraqi regime by demanding that the council content itself with merely issuing a general condemnation of the use of chemical weapons without specifically referring to the Iraqi regime.

However, the existence of so many clear facts pointing to the Iraqi regime's crimes compelled the UN secretary general to issue a statement on 25 March in which he clearly condemned the criminal Iraqi regime over this issue.

In any event, the delayed publication of the UN team's report on the tragic incident in Halabjah once again clearly showed the indifference of international forums and the extent of the world powers' influence on these forums.

It is interesting to note that the report was silent over the identity of the true perpetrator of the Halabjah crime, and also referred to a number of injured Iraqi soldiers who were hospitalized in Baghdad.

In short, while refusing to name Saddam's regime as the perpetrator of the Halabjah crime, the UN team's recent report also attempted to condemn Iran of using chemical arms.

Moreover, it should be noted that the UN team, which delayed its visit to Tehran and arrived only after Iran's insistence, did not consist of military, political, and biological experts.

In addition, after arriving in Tehran, the members of the team refused to visit Halabjah on the pretext that the region is in Iraqi territory. They also only agreed to medical examinations of the victims hospitalized in Tehran's hospitals.

It should be recalled that previous UN teams consisted of more people and more experts than the present team—and this comes at a time when the Halabjah incident was seen as such an unprecedented crime—both in the gases used and the number of victims—that it surprised even many Western reporters.

Thus, regarding the formation of the present UN team, the number of its members, how and when the team was sent, and the contents and timing of the publication of their report, we should once again examine the destructive role played by the arrogant powers in international organizations, as well as the Security Council's indifference toward the Iran-Iraq war.

If the said report had been issued within the framework of the UN secretary general's position, and had clearly acknowledged the criminal role played by Saddam's regime as well as its oppression of Iran, the council also would have been compelled—in view of the sensitivity of the situation and the awareness of public opinion—to accept the team's report and to at least adopt positions similar to that of the secretary general.

However, it is very clear that confessing to such a truth would have clearly clashed with the unilateral stands enunciated by world arrogance in the Security Council, and would have placed new problems and obstacles before them concerning the all-embracing support for the Iraqi regime.

Several factors—such as the people who formed the UN team and their allegation that Halabjah was not in Iranian territory—led to the UN team's report, which fell within the framework of the initial stand adopted by the U.S. State Department. So, despite the various reports and the secretary general's clear stand, the Iraqi regime was readily acquitted once again.

The world should know that the damages inflicted by this inactivity is not limited only to the Islamic Republic of Iran and to the Muslim Iraqi nation. By refusing to condemn such savage acts, there definitely will be no guarantees in the future that such crimes will not be repeated and expanded.

However, despite the various plots by world arrogance, the repetition of the enemy's crimes and the overt support extended through world arrogance have uncovered the filthy nature of the Iraqi regime and expanded the raging wave of the nation toward the fronts. This will ultimately place new problems in front of the Iraqi Army.

Commentary on Possibility of 'Islamic Labor Law'
NC0105083588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 1 May 88

[Commentary prepared by the Central News Unit's research group]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Before the victory of the Islamic Revolution, workers in Iran faced extremely difficult conditions. Under Iran's former ruling system—a system that was dependent on the patterns of a capitalist economy—workers formed the most deprived class in society, and the domination of the employers only resulted in their further exploitation.

The victory of the Islamic Revolution actually set off a potential movement against the oppression imposed on the workers. At the same time, the Islamic nature of the Iranian Revolution, which projected new values and valuable positions for the workers, gave rise to new hopes among the Iranian workers and started the trend of a systematic and fundamental change in the country's labor situation. [passage omitted]

However, economic developments in the country after the Islamic Revolution stemming from the imposed war, a reduction in oil prices, and other problems made conditions difficult for people with a fixed income, particularly for the workers.

The rise in inflation over the past few years has comprised the great problem for the workers. Even though there was a noteworthy increase in the workers' basic wages, nevertheless it was unable to sufficiently lift the burden of inflation from the workers' shoulders.

However, the government continues to try—by distributing coupons to the workers, by placing staple goods at the workers' disposal through the labor consumer cooperatives, and other similar steps—to ease the pressure of inflation on the working strata.

One of the greatest problems currently facing the workers of the country is the absence of a new labor law that conforms with Islamic law. The existence for 9 years of a labor law that was inherited from the oppressive monarchy is a painful reminder in the holy atmosphere of our society.

The country's current law is the same one that was approved in 1337 [year ending 20 March 1958]; it has been implemented for 30 years now, and is full of exploitative clauses. Thus, the approval of an Islamic labor law under the present conditions can be an extremely great, effective, and fundamental step toward assisting the working class.

The compilation and approval of an Islamic labor law has been through many vicissitudes so far. The Islamic labor law, which is extremely progressive and anti-oppressive in nature, has not received final approval during the past few years because of a difference between the Majlis and the Council of Guardians.

However, it seems that in view of the new developments in the country's legislative system and the formation of a council to determine government legislation, the path toward the Islamic labor law's approval will be paved further in the near future.

Actually, the path toward the approval of this law was paved during last [Iranian] year [year ending 20 March 1988] following an inquiry by the labor minister to the imam of the ummah on the extent of the government's rights in establishing compulsory conditions.

The Islamic labor law has many special aspects. This law decisively deals with preventing the arbitrary expulsion of workers, which could easily be done under the law approved by the former regime. According to Article 78 of this new law, the employers of units that hire women workers have to set up a nursery and kindergarten near the unit.

Reducing the hours of work to 44 hours a week, increasing leave from 12 days to 30 days a year, limiting part of the employer's rights, and increasing maternity leave for women workers are also among the noteworthy special features of the Islamic labor law.

In addition, this law foresees a solution to problems such as low wages, the high cost of living, the shortage or absence of housing, the absence of employment security, and the absence of social welfare. On the whole, this law regards the labor force as an important factor in political, economic, and social activities; in other words, it regards the worker as a human being, not as a machine.

In view of these outstanding features, it is hoped that the Islamic labor law will be brought out of abeyance as soon as possible and receive final legislative approval so that it may be implemented in the various branches of labor.

Despite many problems, Iran's committed and Muslim workers have had an extensive presence on all the scenes during the past few years. The participation of workers on the battlefronts and the martyrdom of a number of them are only small examples of this presence; and today's departure for the fronts of the Basiji workers is a continuation of that epic.

Up to now, the Muslim workers of Islamic Iran have been able to prevent the wheels of the country's industries from stopping even under the most difficult conditions. The attacks by the Iraqi Zionist regime on our country's economic and labor installations during the past few years have actually been a manifestation of that regime's spite toward the work and effort of this toiling class.

In part of his message on Labor Day a few years ago our labor minister stated: If the occasion of the death of a few workers who were killed in one part of the world demonstrating on 1 May was used as a basis to name that day Labor Day, then may the toiling and faithful workers of our Islamic homeland be praised because each day is labor day for them.

SAIRI Sponsors Demonstration at UN Office

LD0305105988 Tehran IRNA in English 1050 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 3, IRNA—Hundreds of Iraqi Muslim Kurds, Turks and Arabs marched toward the United Nations bureau in Tehran Tuesday to express their hatred of the wide-scale plot of the world arrogance against the Islamic Movement of Iraq and protest the biased report of a UN team which recently investigated the Baghdad regime's war crimes in Halabjah.

The demonstration was sponsored by the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) and attended by scores of Hizballah Kurds and members of Iraq's Kurdistan Democratic Party.

The demonstrators gathered at a square in northern Tehran and then marched toward the bureau, carrying placards and chanting slogans in condemnation of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime.

The marchers submitted a protest note to the UN office in Tehran expressing their wrath over the silence of international forums towards Baghdad's mass killing of Iraqi Muslims by chemical bombs. They also called for the trial and punishment of those behind the crime.

The statement demanded that all free people of the world denounce the Iraqi regime for its savage crime. It also lauded the inhabitants of Halabjah for their brave cooperation with and their warm welcome to Iran's Muslim combatants when they liberated the city in March.

The demonstrators announced that March 18, the day of chemical bombardment of Halabjah and martyrdom of 5,000 of its civilians should be named the "Day of Resistance of Iraqi Nation".

The Iraqi opposition groups categorically condemned the U.S. for its unprovoked attack on Iranian oil platforms in the Persian Gulf and the world arrogance for supporting the Iraqi Ba'thist regime.

The Muslim demonstrators also branded the irresponsible measure of the Hijaz regime in breaking ties with Iran and its banning of Iranians from paying hajj pilgrimage this year as an anti-Islamic act and in line with goals of global arrogance.

The marchers backed the courageous uprising of Muslims in the occupied Palestine, Lebanon and Afghanistan and renewed their allegiance with Islamic ummah promising to go on fighting until the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq.

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

Communique No 3,190

LD021706 Tehran IRNA in English 1654 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 2, IRNA—The Islamic Republic Air Force carried out patrol missions over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman Sunday in support of the Navy, ignoring a provocative warning from a foreign warship, and reconnoitering 17 vessels in the waterway, said a military communique here Monday.

The 3190th joint staff communique said that Iran's naval gunboats, in addition to closely monitoring movement of two foreign warships, intercepted and searched three cargo vessels and five oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz yesterday but allowed them to continue voyage after making certain they were not carrying cargo for Iraq.

Exchange of artillery and mortar fire continued throughout the fronts Sunday raging somewhat more heavily in Maymak, Kushk and Zobeydah, as a result of which a

number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several enemy bunkers and gun emplacements, two tanks and three vehicles were destroyed.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces responded to Iraqi artillery fire in parts of the western and southern sectors Sunday, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and destroying a vehicle and several bunkers and observation posts of theirs.

Heavy fire of Iran's Muslim combatants silenced the fire of Iraqi tanks in Panjwin and Nahr 'Anbar, northwestern and western fronts, yesterday, inflicting heavy damage on enemy troops.

An Iraqi motorized column moving in Mandali Sunday was shelled by Iranian Muslim combatants as a result of which some enemy vehicles were damaged, concluded the communique.

Iraqi Planes Violate Airspace

LD030910 Tehran IRNA in English 0907 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] Orumiyeh, E. Azarbayjan Prov., May 3, IRNA—Iraqi warplanes violated air space of Orumiyeh and Miandoab Tuesday morning. The planes broke the sound barrier while fleeing.

Pakistan

Gandhi's Special Emissary Menon Arrives 3 May

BK0305063588 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] The Indian foreign secretary, K.P.S. Menon, arrived in Islamabad this morning on a day's visit as the special emissary of the Indian prime minister.

Talking briefly with newsmen at the airport, Mr Menon said significant events have been taking place in this region, events that have kept Pakistani leaders very busy.

He said he will find out Pakistan's positions on the regional situation. He was received at the airport by his Pakistani counterpart. The Pakistani foreign secretary said we are anxious to know about the purpose of the visit of the Indian emissary to Islamabad.

During his stay in Pakistan, the Indian special emissary will meet the president, the prime minister, and the minister of state for foreign affairs, and will hold talks with the foreign secretary.

Meets With Noorani

BK0305113088 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] The Indian foreign secretary, Mr K.P.S. Menon called on the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Zain Noorani, in Islamabad today. They exchanged views on further normalization of relations between Pakistan and India.

Prospects for peace inside Afghanistan came under discussion with special reference to the statement made by the UN secretary general's personal representative, Mr Diego Cordovez, on the 8th of last month.

The statement said that all parties to the Geneva accords were committed to support and facilitate the endeavors of the Afghan people to work out arrangements for a broad-based government in Afghanistan.

Mr Cordovez is expected soon to commence contacts with the Afghan parties to promote an intra-Afghan dialogue.

Earlier, Mr Menon met the foreign secretary.

Protest Lodged With Afghan Envoy Over Bombing

BK0205153288 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] Three Afghan fighter aircraft violated Pakistan's airspace on 25 April and dropped four bombs west of Teri Mangal in Khurram Agency, killing four Afghan refugees and injuring three others.

On 27 April again, the Afghan Armed Forces fired 26 mortar rounds, which landed in Landikhana in Khyber Agency, killing 9 people, including a Pakistani child. A total of 14 people, including 3 Pakistani nationals, were injured.

The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office this morning and a strong protest was lodged with him over these unprovoked attacks.

Spokesman on Ammunition Dump Operations

BK0205163388 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] Planned demolition of bombs will not take place inside the Ojri Camp area from tomorrow as all bombs found have been destroyed. Demolition of bomb at Barahgau will, however, continue from 0600 to 1100 daily till further notice.

This was stated by a spokesman of the Ministry of Defense in Rawalpindi today. He said two of the four hot spots identified earlier and reached by Army engineers yesterday were successfully tackled today without any mishap.

The spokesman said the clearing operation at the Ojri Camp dump area continues and about 50 truckloads of both exploded and unexploded bombs and shells are being shifted to the [word indistinct] disposal area daily.

Curfew Imposed on Orangi Area of Karachi
BK0205112088 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] An indefinite curfew has been clamped on Orangi town police station area of Karachi West today. The district magistrate told Radio Pakistan's representative that the curfew was imposed as a preventive measure to (?keep) the situation from further deterioration. He said no incident of violence occurred today in the area.

Rival Groups Clash; 3 Killed
BK0205155888 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] A press note issued today by the district magistrate of Karachi West says that certain troublemakers belonging to various rival groups started indiscriminate firing at each other in the areas of Pirabad, Bukhari Colony, Qasbah More, and Qasbah Town along the (?100-feet) road after midnight last night.

A large police contingent reached all the spots immediately and took positions between the two rival groups and then took necessary steps to protect the lives and property of the people and to prevent a direct confrontation between the two groups.

A total of eight people were injured in the exchange of fire. Three of the injured later died in the hospital. The press note adds that a curfew has been clamped on the Orangi town police station area to prevent any further confrontation. The situation is under control. The police have registered the case and arrested some troublemakers.

The curfew will be relaxed twice—from 0330 to 0430 anh again from 1830 to 1930 in the evening—in Orangi town police station area of the Karachi West District tomorrow.

Bomb Blast Injures 9 in Peshawar 2 May
BK0205152888 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] A bomb exploded at Chowk Yadgar of Peshawar City this afternoon, slightly injuring nine people. The bomb was placed on a bicycle.

Opposition Leader Criticizes Geneva Accords
BK0305112088 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 24 Apr 88 p 6

[Text] Quetta, April 23: Mir Ghous Bux Bizenjo, President, Pakistan National Party, has said that the Geneva Accord on Afghanistan is flawed and full of faults.

In an interview with PPI here yesterday he said that the biggest snag is that Pakistan and Afghanistan are bound by the accord not to interfere in the internal affairs of each other but at the same time USA and USSR have been left free to supply arms and ammunition to their clients as the when desired on one pretext or the other.

This means that on the slightest pretext the two superpowers would resort to arms supply to their clients, thereby triggering civil war in Afghanistan.

He said so far as Soviet Union is concerned it has a direct link with Afghanistan to supply military hardware but it is not so with USA. If Pakistan is used by the USA as a conduit for the supply of arms to its clients in Afghanistan then Pakistan would be accused of violating the Geneva Accord.

He said our government must refrain from pleasing USA which is sitting thousands of miles away from Pakistan. "We should not at all indulge in superpower rivalry in the region. If this is the strategy in Afghanistan then there would be serious repercussions not only in Pakistan but also in the region".

As such, he suggested, Pakistan must exercise every possible precaution from being dragged again in Afghan issue during or after in implementation of the accord. He suggested that U.N. must ensure foolproof arrangements preventing superpowers from supplying arms and ammunition to their clients during the process of implementation or successful conclusion of the accord.

Asked if the three million Afghan refugees would go back to their homeland under the accord, Mr. Bizenjo said as a matter of principle they all must go to lead a democratic and dignified life on their soil without any interference.

He said Afghan society can solve its problems through mutual consultation and consent under jirgah system. If there is any dispute in any section of the society the Afghans could refer the issue to the 'jirgah' for its amicable solution. He said no country has any right of dictating terms to the Afghan to solve their issues.

Mr. Bizenjo highly appreciated Soviet leadership for playing its positive part to promote peace in Afghanistan by agreeing to the voluntary withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan without any string.

He hoped that both USA and USSR who have given guarantee for the peace and stability in Afghanistan would fulfil their commitments in the supreme interest of peace in the region.

Briefs

Cultural Program With China

Pakistan and China signed in Islamabad today an implementation program of cultural exchanges between them during 1988-89. The program also envisages encouragement of exchanges of archival publications and archives between the two countries. [Text] [*BK0205163688 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 2 May 88*]

Sri Lanka

'Brutal' Murder of Galle District Chief Noted

BK0205103988 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0919 GMT 2 May 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 2 May (LANKA PUWATH)—Police investigations into the brutal southern terrorist murder of District Minister of Galle and Member of Parliament for Habaraduwa G.V.S. de Silva last night at Ahangama in Sri Lanka's Southern Province pointed toward three guns having been fired at the district minister and other occupants of the white-coloured Celica van in which he was returning after observing Poya [Buddhist religious festival] day in a hermitage and visiting the Sambodhiya Home for Crippled Children.

A senior police official told LANKA PUWATH today that during a late night strip search, where strips of land were examined, 14 empty 7.62 cartridges, believed to have been fired from two T-81 semi-automatic rifles, which were robbed from two soliders last week guarding a detainee at Karapitiya hospital in Galle, were used and one 12-bore empty cartridge had been found at the scene of the crime.

The indentation on the 14 empty 7.62 cartridges showed they had been fired from two different T-81 or T-56 rifles.

The T-81 is the latest version of the T-56 semi-automatic rifle and is lighter and more flexible to handle, official sources said.

The senior police official said that the scene of the tragedy, which occurred at 2015 hours [1445 GMT] yesterday was on a rugged stretch of a tea estate road at Haupe, Ahangama, 12 miles from the southern provincial capital of Galle. The gunman had fired at point blank range causing the vehicle to go over a precipice and fall into a ravine.

While the district minister was found dead on admission to the Galle hospital, his security officer, sub-inspector Prematillake Ayurvedic, physician Dr Subasinghe, and the driver Thegris had been seriously wounded.

The remaining passenger B.R. Dissanayake, a philanthropist, who runs the home for crippled children and who had also presented a cobalt machine for treatment of cancer patients to the Galle hospital had a miraculous escape and was unhurt.

Liberation Front Blamed

BK0205033588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the district minister for the southern district of Galle, Mr G.D.S. de Silva, was killed last night by unknown gunmen. Mr de Silva, who was also a member of Parliament, was seriously injured at a place near Galle, when attacked while he was returning home after a visit to a hermitage. He died in hospital. Three others, including a policeman, accompanying him in a car, were also seriously injured.

Our correspondent, Plabon Majumder, reports that Mr de Silva was among the members of Parliament injured in a grenade attack in Parliament last August. The police blamed JVP [Janata Vimukthi Peramuna] for that attack. Mr de Silva is the third parliamentarian of the ruling party to be killed by the JVP since July last.

Jayewardene Offers Amnesty in May Day Speech

BK0205164888 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1604 GMT 2 May 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, May 2 (LANKA PUWATH)—The government will leave no room for the spread of the philosophy of violence of the terrorists. Sri Lankan President J R Jayewardene said that this fight will be continued until victory is achieved, the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation announced in its news bulletin tonight.

President Jayewardene was addressing a United National Party May Day rally at the Galle Face Green in Colombo this evening.

The president said that although the assistance of Mrs Bandaranaike will not be sought in this regard it was left to her to think over it.

Referring to the loss of innocent lives due to terrorist action, he said that amnesty will be granted to southern terrorists if they were prepared to give up arms and accept the democratic path. Such an amnesty has been given to the northern terrorists, therefore the LTTE would not hold discussions of contesting provincial council elections. [sentence as received]

The president emphasizes that if the Janata Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) was prepared to give up violence without any conditions they too would be given an amnesty.

Except for the LTTE, other groups have already agreed to the provincial councils system.

Elections to the Northern and Eastern Provincial Councils will be held after the LTTE agree to this system.

Referring to the president election Mr Jayewardene said that this election will be held in due course and that a candidate from the United National Party would contest.

'Terrorists' Involved in Bus Massacres Arrested

BK0205145688 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1436 GMT 2 May 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 2 May (LANKA PUWATH)—Twenty-six northern separatist terrorists of whom 11 have been definitely identified as members of the LTTE who were responsible for yesterday morning's landmine explosion at Sittaru in Trincomalee in which 26 persons were killed and the massacre of ten passengers of a bus proceeding to Awaranthalawa last Saturday morning have been captured by the Indian peace keeping force [IPKF] on information and assistance given by the Sri Lankan Army.

Defense Ministry sources told LANKA PUWATH tonight that the IPKF on information and assistance given by the Sri Lankan Army have captured eleven LTTE terrorists involved in the landmine explosion at Sittaru yesterday which killed 26 and wounded 35 civilian passengers travelling in a Sri Lankan Transport Board bus on the Allaikantale road in the island's Trincomalee District.

The IPKF also captured at Kalladi 15 more terrorists involved in the ambush of the bus proceeding from Awaranthalawa to Vavuniya in which ambush 5 soldiers and 4 civilians were killed. This capture too was made by the IPKF on information and assistance given by the Sri Lankan Army.

8 Wounded in 'Terrorist' Bombing in Batticaloa

BK0205065188 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0636 GMT 2 May 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 2 May (LANKA PUWATH)—Eight persons were wounded when a powerful bomb planted by separatist terrorists, exploded in a building, in close proximity to the clock tower in Batticaloa town, this morning, in eastern Sri Lanka, official sources told LANKA PUWATH today.

The official sources said, the building in which the bomb explosion occurred was next to one in which the 3-Star terrorist group had its office.

Indian Forces Apprehend 135 'Hardcore' Tigers

BK0305033688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] In northern Sri Lanka, search operations by the peacekeeping force south of Devils Point have resulted in recoveries of a large cache of arms and ammunition. These include 46 weapons, 13,000 rounds of ammunition, 64 rockets and 160 kg of explosives.

A large quantity of arms and explosive material has also been unearthed in the Velankulam area of Vavuniya sector. It comprises assault rifles, machine guns, rocket launchers, and Sten carbines. The Indian Navy destroyed a boat off Rameshwaram, when it opened fire.

An official spokesman said in New Delhi that 69 hideouts were located and destroyed by the peacekeeping force. One hundred and thirty five hardcore LTTE men were apprehended and 127 weapons recovered since the 7th of last month.